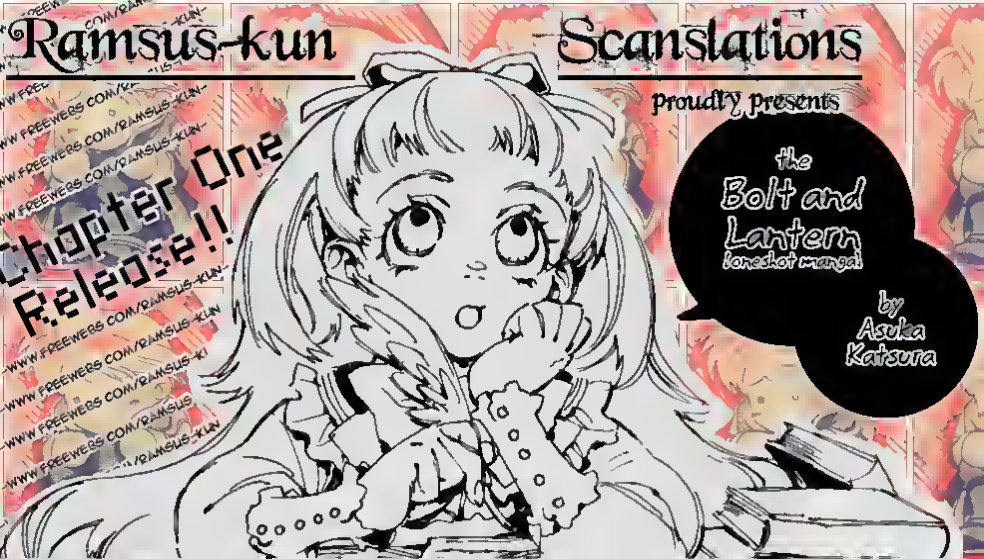
Ramsus-kun
Scanslations
Proudly Presents
the
Bolt and Lantern
[oneshot manga]
by
Asuka Katsura
Chapter One
Release!!
WWW.FREEWEBS.COM/RAMSUS-KUN

CREDITS

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RinUzuki@gmail.com !
Thanks for reading!

Salt & Lantern
蝶子とランタン
桂明日香
Asuka Katsura

KINOKUNIYA
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Bolt & Lantern

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Bolt & Lantern

Asuka Katsura Presents

Asuka Katsura Presents

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"Bolt & Lantern"
Presented by ASUKA KATSURA
Book design by NORIYUKI ZINGUZI
+ZiN STUDIO

SIR NIDELL, YOU WERE RECCOMENDED
BY SIR WALTER, OXFORD'S LANGUAGE PROFFESSOR.
YOU MAY PROCEED TO YOUR NEW POST AS THE LANGUAGE STUDY INSTRUCTOR FOR THE HOUSE OF THE MARQUIS.*
"LANGUAGE STUDY INSTRUCTOR", HUH?
WELL ...
I TRUST THERE HAVE BEEN NO MISTAKES?

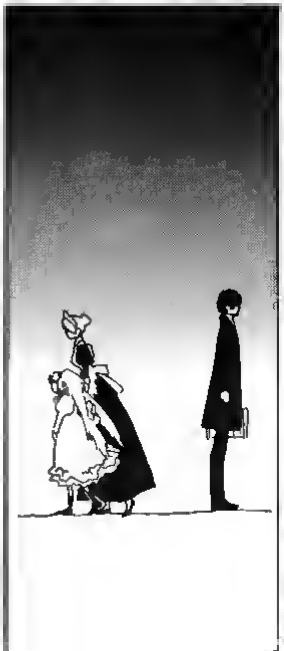
*Marquis - A nobleman ranking below a duke and above an earl or a count.

I WAS A FOOL TO AGREE TO THIS WITHOUT THINKING IT THROUGH.
POP!
Hello! nice to meet you!!
AND
YES.
"BABY-SITTER" IS MORE LIKE IT.

NICE TO MEET YOU, NIDELL!
I'M COCO!
WELCOME TO THE HOUSE OF THE MARQUIS!
AT?
WH

Chapter 1
Dum docent discunt.
(Learning While They Teach)

OH, THE HEAD BUTLER!
GRAND-PA.
GIVE SIR NIDELL A PROPER WELCOME.
I'VE TOLD YOU BEFORE, DON'T POINT CRACKERS AT OTHERS.
step
butler
butler
.....
MISS COCO
AH... ME, TOO!
YES
THIS WAY, IF YOU PLEASE.
A SERVANT WILL ATTEND TO YOUR BAGGAGE SHORTLY.
THAT'S THE CHILD?
YES.
... YES, SIR ...
PLEASE GO BACK TO WHERE YOU WERE.
flinch



PRESENTLY, HER LADYSHIP IS TEN YEARS OLD.

TWO YEARS AGO, THE PREVIOUS GENERATION-- THAT IS TO SAY, MISS COCO'S PARENTS-
PASSED AWAY IN AN AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT.
THE FOLLOWING YEAR, BEING THE ONLY DAUGHTER, MISS COCO INHERITED THE TITLE OF MARQUISE
WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH BEING A "LANGUAGE STUDY INSTRUCTOR" ..?!
I WISH THE OLD FOX WOULD HURRY UP AND FINISH TALKING--I'M JUST A "TUTOR".
ISN'T SHE ABOUT THE RIGHT AGE FOR A GIRL'S SCHOOL?
RATHER THAN A PRIVATE TUTOR,
IT'S IMPORTANT TO LEARN THE BASICS BEFORE ENROLLING IN A BOARDING SCHOOL, SIR NIDELL.
ANY-WAY ...
IT'S BECAUSE MISS COCO IS THE WAY SHE IS.
...YOU DIDN'T KNOW?
HUH ...

AS MISS COCO IS THE "MARQUISE" AND NOT THE "DAUGHTER OF THE MARQUIS",
SHE IS EXPECTED TO ACT LIKE A FULLY MATURE LADY IN FRONT OF OTHERS...

YOU SEEM TO HAVE A REMARKABLE GIFT FOR LANGUAGES, SIR NIDELL.
BUT THIS SITUATION MIGHT ACTUALLY BE TO MY ADVANTAGE
HOW TROUBLESOME.

WITH A BIT OF LUCK, THIS COULD BE A FOOTHOLD THAT MIGHT EVENTUALLY ALLOW ME TO ACQUIRE A TITLE.

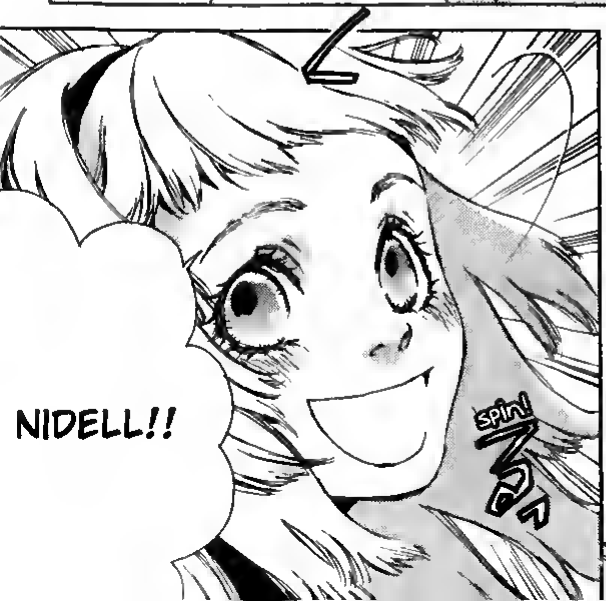
I'M DIFFERENT THAN THOSE DISGUSTING SNOBS

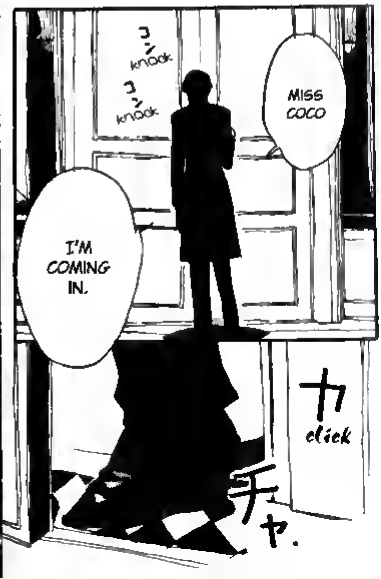
HEY, UPSTART!
NOT VERY LIVELY TODAY ARE YOU?
I WOULDN'T WASTE MY WORDS ON SEEDY LOOKING PEOPLE LIKE YOU.
grab
SEE! HE JUST STAYS QUIET, IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT YOU SAY TO HIM
SO DILLIGENT, SITTING IN THE LIBRARY DAY AFTER DAY.
heh
heh
snicker
THAT STUPID BARON BOUGHT YOUR MOTHER'S "SERVICES", DIDN'T HE?
thud

WHAT IMPERTINENCE! ENROLLING IN A BOARDING SCHOOL DESPITE BEING BORN AND BRED IN THE SLUMS.
THIS IS HOW NUISANCES, GET TREATED- WE'LL SEND YOU BACK TO WHERE YOU CAME FROM.
DON'T BE SO CONCEITED JUST BECAUSE YOU GET GOOD MARKS.
idiot
IT'S JUST STUPID
HOW THE NOBILITY
Son of a Bitch!

WELL, I'LL PROVE THAT BY "STUDYING"
FOCUS SO MUCH ON BEING "LADIES" OR "GENTLEMEN" AND DON'T PLACE ANY IMPORTANCE ON LEARNING.

HOW I WAS BORN AND WHAT MY TITLE IS OR ISN'T HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.
I CAN BECOME WHATEVER I WANT TO.

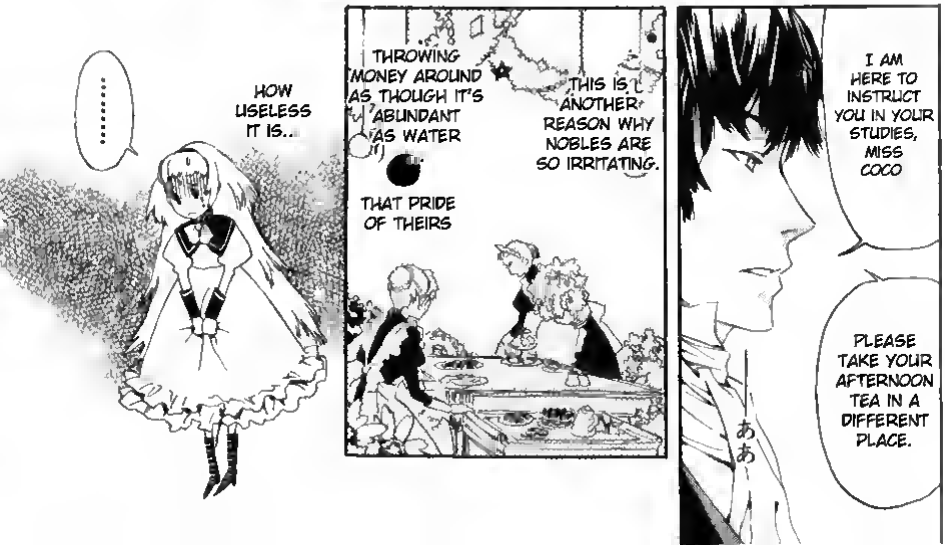

NIDELL!!
spin!


knock
knock
MISS COCO
I'M COMING IN.
click

UHM, I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF FLOWERS YOU LIKE,
What's this?
.....
.....
wh-
COMFORTABLE CHAIRS TO SIT IN, AND ALL THESE SWEETS WERE PREPARED!
CHOOSE WHICH EVER ONES YOU LIKE, NIDELL!
むふ～ん
SO I GATHERED AS MANY AS I COULD!
AND THERE'S
NIDELL?
sigh
WELCOME, NIDELL!!
恋わ。

PLEASE PUT ALL OF THIS AWAY.
OH ...
YES SIR!

I...
I'M SORRY ...
YOU DIDN'T LIKE IT —?


I AM HERE TO INSTRUCT YOU IN YOUR STUDIES, MISS COCO
PLEASE TAKE YOUR AFTERNOON TEA IN A DIFFERENT PLACE.
あぁ
THROWING MONEY AROUND AS THOUGH IT'S ABUNDANT AS WATER
THIS IS ANOTHER REASON WHY NOBLES ARE SO IRRITATING.
THAT PRIDE OF THEIRS
HOW USELESS IT IS..
.....

MAGNUM PERICULUM A VIO...
"WISE" ISN'T "PRERIEULU" HERE, IT'S "PRUDEN"..
.. THEREFORE, IN THIS ILLUSTRATIVE SENTENCE
UH... UM... WELL,
I SAID I WOULD STUDY, AND...
AH! S-SORRY!
IT'S GOING TO BE DIFFICULT TO WORK IF YOU'RE SO TENSE.
... MISS COCO ...
コチ
コチ
I KNOW! I KNOW THAT'S JUST A SILLY DREAM...
UM, WELL IT'S JUST THAT WHEN I DID WELL ON A TEST, PAPA WOULD BUY ME BANOFFIE PIE.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THAT ..
N-NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I-
EH!
ガン
DO YOU WANT ME TO BUY ONE?
... ...

I DON'T NEED THAT KIND OF THING NOW--
I'M NOT A CHILD ANY-MORE!
SHE IS A CHILD!
I... I AM THE MARQUISE, AFTER ALL!
SO I DON'T NEED ...
... PAPA
PAPA ISN'T HERE, EITHER
SO I DON'T NEED THAT ...
SORT OF...
THING
あ
WELL~
WHAT A BOTHERSOME BRAT...
... ...
UNH ...
... ...
FORGIVE ME. I'M SORRY, MISS COCO.
SO DON'T CRY ANY-MORE...
I- I'M SO SORRY!
BUT... I S-STUDY HARD TO DO WELL,
B-BUT NOBODY IS PLEASED WITH ME ANYMORE ...
SOB
SNIFFLE

WELL, I'LL BE HAPPY!
SO HURRY AND--
ばばっ
THEN I'LL DO MY BEST!!
W-WELL
I AM YOUR TEACHER.
YOU REALLY MEAN IT?!
ばっ
EH
REALLY ?!
THERE'S NO NEED TO BE IN SUCH A HURRY ...
LET'S JUST FOCUS ON THE QUESTION YOU HAD TROUBLE WITH EARLIER-
M... MISS COCO
scratch
scratch
scratch
scratch

カリ
scritch
カリ
scratch
……
カリ
scratch
LET'S REVIEW THE LESSONS ONE STEP AT A TIME.

I'M DONE!
Huh?
LET'S SEE ...
THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT
?
SHE'S DONE ALREADY?
IT WAS EASY! ♪
TH-THAT WAS FAST.
here!
... YOU SCORED PERFECTLY
YOU'VE STUDIED LANGUAGE A LITTLE SO FAR, THEN?
WELL, I'D ALWAYS WATCH MAMA WHEN SHE WROTE IN ENGLISH.
JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO, SHE COULD BARELY READ ...
HUH? REALLY?!
ALL RIGHT!!
EH, SO, BY ANY CHANCE ...
DID I DO AN AMAZING JOB?!
... UH, YEAH ...
doesn't understand

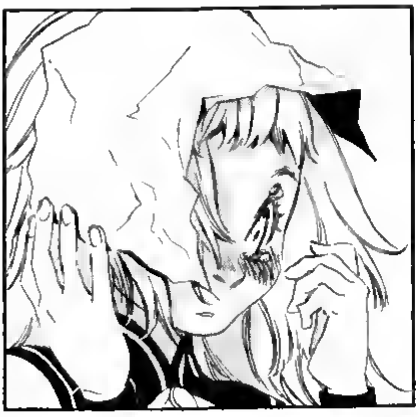
I GOT A PERFECT SCORE ON TODAY'S TEST!
NIDELL SAID I DID AN AMAZING JOB!
I COULDN'T SOLVE PROBLEMS LIKE THAT UNTIL I WAS SIXTEEN.
HEY, HEY-- LOOK, LOOK!
whoosh
I DID IT, I DID IT!!
I GOTTA GO SHOW EVERYBODY!!
AH! YOU'RE STILL IN CLASS--
.....
she's lost ...
all alone
THAT WASN'T A PROBLEM WITH AN OBVIOUS ANSWER- A FLUKE, THEN?
HOW-EVER,
I'M PUZZLED.

Silence...
.....
THAT SURE IS SOME-THING
I-IS THAT SO?
shuffle
shuffle
WHAT IS THIS COMMOTION?
flinch
G-
GRAND-PA...
.....

I GOT A PERECT SCORE ON MY TEST--
THOSE WERE YOUR FOOTSTEPS JUST NOW, WEREN'T THEY?
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU BEFORE YOU UNDER-STAND?
A PROPER "LADY" DOES NOT RUN DOWN THE HALL!
MISS COCO, I WANT YOU TO HURRY
AND BECOME A CULTURED AND REFINED MARQUISE THAT WE CAN ALL BE PROUD OF.
SERVANTS ARE NOT TO BE TREATED LIKE FAMILY OR FRIENDS.
THEY HAVE THEIR DUTIES

YOU MUST RECIEVE YOUR EDUCATION FROM SIR NIDELL AND--
AND YOU HAVE YOURS
YOU MUST STUDY-- EVERYTHING ELSE COMES SECOND
MISS COCO
PLEASE RETURN TO THE ROOM
WE'RE STILL IN THE MIDDLE OF CLASS.

YOU FORGOT THIS.
krsh!
はさっ
YOU REALLY
DID VERY WELL.
kyah!
shuffle
tmp
tmp
tmp
grab



……
star-~

tmp!
tmp

patter
patter
patter

IT SEEMS THAT

I'M ...
YOU AND MISS COCO GET ALONG WELL.
JUST DOING MY "DUTY"!

Banoffie pie
worrying endlessly
I HAVE TO TRY AND WORK MORE SMOOTHLY ...
I COULDN'T HELP BEING ANGRY, BUT TALKING LIKE THAT'LL GET ME FIRED
Knock Knock
Flinch!

PROFESSOR WALTER
SIR NIDELL, A LETTER FROM THE UNIVERSITY ADDRESSED TO YOU...
Nidell, my much beloved pupil, how are you doing?
shaaaa
So you've become the language instructor for the family of the marquis I'm so proud of you!
I was lucky to have the chance to introduce an excellent student like you
That rumour about the Baron, your adoptive father, hasn't died out yet,
and I worry about how you and your mother have been treated
Truly

I'll help as much as I can.
Just don't let the Marquise know about your origins
shaaaaa
LOLICO--
FLASH!
TO USE ME AS A PUPPET TO GAIN THE FAVOR OF THE MARQUIS BECAUSE HE'S A
HE PROBABLY WANTS
THAT SLY OLD FOX ...
rumble
KO
Kyaaaa

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT ...?!
MISS COCO?!
MI-
NIDELL!!
NIDELL!
CALM DOWN, MISS COCO ...
YOU HAVEN'T GONE ANYWHERE, RIGHT?!
YOU'RE STILL HERE AREN'T YOU, NIDELL?!
NIDELL ...
NIDELL!
.....

MAMA AND PAPA NEVER CAME BACK HOME...
WHEN THE ACCIDENT HAPPENED ...
IT WAS A RAINY NIGHT LIKE THIS

THAT YOU'RE HERE, NIDELL ...
BUT, I'M GLAD ...
shaaa
NO, HE JUST WANTED ME TO GIVE HIS REGARDS TO MY FATHER ...
DID SOME-THING BAD HAPPEN?
IT'S FROM MY UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR WHO RECOMMENDED ME TO YOUR FAMILY.
A LETTER?
OH... YES
YOU'RE A "NOBLE" TOO, MISS COCO!
WELL THEN, YOU MUST BE A "NOBLE", NIDELL!
THAT'S AMAZING!
YOUR FATHER IS A BARON, ISN'T HE, NIDELL?

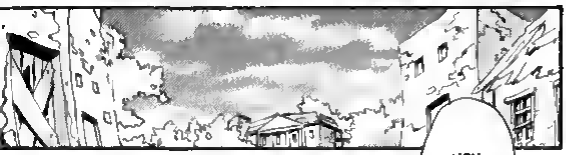
...YEAH!
THERE'S NO NEED TO HURRY,
I'M SURE YOU'LL BECOME A FINE MARQUIS IN TIME, MISS COCO!
.....
MAYBE, BUT I DON'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A MARQUISE.
IF YOU SAY SO NIDELL, THEN IT MUST BE THE TRUTH!
.....
...IF YOU'RE TOO FRIGHTENED TO GO BACK, THEN I SUPPOSE I CAN LEND YOU MY BED.
SQUIZZEE
you're going to wreck my hand
ANY-WAY,
IT'S QUITE LATE, SO PLEASE GO TO BED SOON.
FLASH!

I'LL STAY HERE WITH YOU, OKAY?
FOREVER!
EHEH HEH
HER HAND IS SO SMALL ...
.....
IT'S MUCH TOO SMALL ...
chirp
chirp
OH ...
NIDELL?
... MMH.

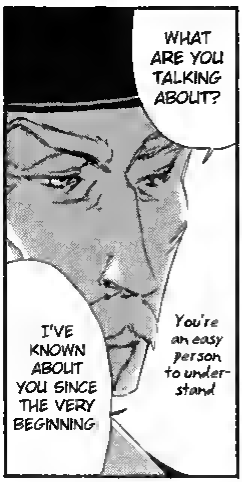
I WONDER WHAT KIND OF LETTER THE UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR WROTE...
.....
rustle
"SLUMS" ...?
flinch
click
EH?
I READ A LITTLE BIT...
S-SORRY, NIDELL
BREAK-FAST WILL BE SERVED SOON.
OH, YOU'RE AWAKE, MISS COCO?
AH ...

GRAB!
Sl-
-ASHI!
NI...

Banoffie Pie



YOU WORRIED ME,
WHEN YOU SUDDENLY LEFT AND ABANDONED YOUR JOB LIKE THAT.


WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I'VE KNOWN ABOUT YOU SINCE THE VERY BEGINNING.
You're an easy person to understand

WE CAN'T ALLOW A MEMBER OF THE "LOWER CLASS" LIKE ME TO BE AROUND YOUR PRECIOUS "PRINCESS", CAN WE? SHE MIGHT CATCH SOMETHING,
GET ANGRY IF YOU WANT. BUT IT WAS ALL A MISTAKE

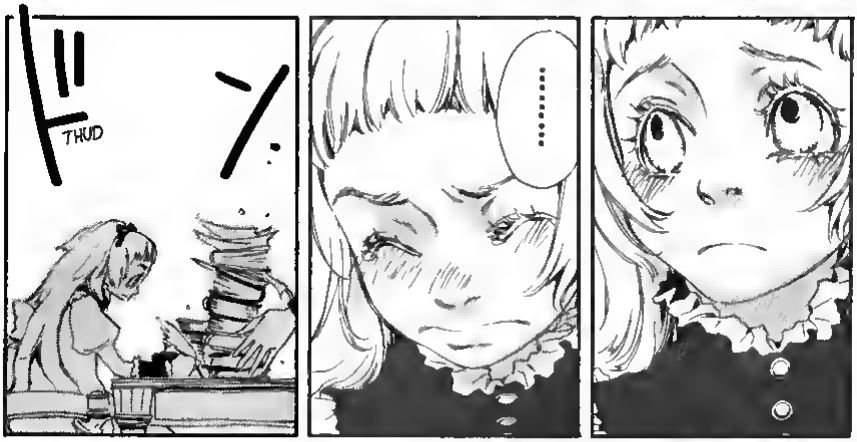
NIDELL!!

I KNOW YOU QUITE WELL.
ARISTOCRATIC SOCIETY IS VERY SENSITIVE TO THE DIFFERENT "CLASSES".
DO NOT UNDER-ESTIMATE ME
I CHECK THE BACKGROUND OF EVERYONE I CONSIDER EMPLOYING!
.....
HUH?
BUT WHY SHOULD I GROW A FLOWER, WHEN I CAN RAISE A BUTTERFLY?
THE MOST SHE CAN DO IS SIMPLY MAKE APPEARENCES IN PUBLIC. BUT THE WAY SHE IS NOW, MISS COCO CANNOT EVEN DO THAT. SHE WOULD ONLY END UP BEING USED BY OTHERS.
AT HER AGE, MISS COCO ALREADY HAS THE TITLE OF "MARQUIS".
AND THAT'S WHY I CHOSE YOU AS HER INSTRUCTOR.

THIS ...
FOR AS LONG AS I LIVE.
... SO,
YOU THINK SHE HAS A USE FOR ME?
IS A TERRIBLE EXAM PAPER, DON'T YOU THINK?
PLEASE,
WITHOUT YOU, SHE SEEMS TO HAVE TROUBLE WORKING.
PLEASE TEACH MISS COCO
MANY THINGS ...

PLEASE,
HELP MISS COCO GROW UP TO BE STRONG.
ban
yari
SINCE SIR NIDELL DISAPPEARED, MISS COCO HAS BEEN MUCH QUIETER.
IT'S ACTUALLY A LITTLE CREEPY.
AFTER ALL THAT RUNNING AROUND SHE DID, NOW HER FOOTSTEPS ARE BARELY AUDIBLE
ISN'T IT?

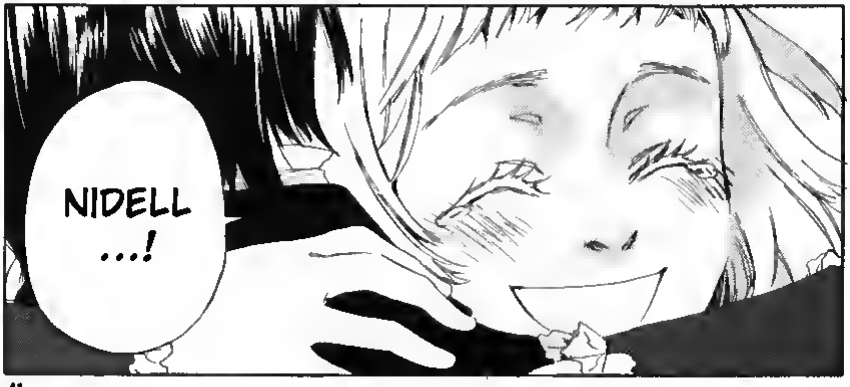
Banoffie pie


THUD
.....

NI-
...

THEN I REALLY WILL LEAVE!
IF YOU KEEP GETTING SCORES LIKE THIS,

Banoffie p


NIDELL
...!

... I'M REALLY
A COM-PLETE IDIOT!
What in the world are you doing with your feet on the table miss coco?!
Don't laugh, Nidell!!!
I'M SO SORRY
I WAS A FOOL TO AGREE TO THIS WITHOUT THINKING IT THROUGH,
BUT
THAT ALL DEPENDS ON YOU, MISS COCO.
THAT PERFECT SCORE WASN'T A FLUKE!
DON'T WORRY, NIDELL!
SEE, NIDELL! A PERFECT SCORE!!
THINGS MAY TURN OUT WELL AFTER ALL.

www.freewebs.com/ramsus-kun

TYPESETTING BY NEOCACTAR

DO YOU UNDERSTAND, MISS COCO?
Chapter 2
第2話
NAG
NAG
NAG
NAG
NAG
I'M LEAVING FOR A FEW DAYS TO VISIT MY PARENTS,
SO DON'T GET INTO ANY TROUBLE WHILE I'M GONE.
DON'T RUN DOWN THE HALL! DON'T TOUCH THE CHINA! DON'T LEAVE THE ESTATE!
DON'T THINK I WON'T KNOW IF YOU BREAK ANY OF THESE RULES!
YES MA'AM ...

Chapter 2

第2話

Ora et labora.

(Pray and Work)

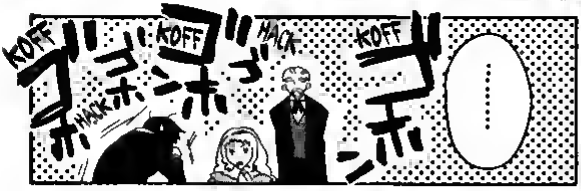
THE HOUSE-KEEPER IS AWAY ON HOLIDAY?
... INDEED ...
I'M AFRAID OF WHAT MISS COCO MIGHT DO WITHOUT THE HOUSEKEEPER TO LOOK AFTER HER.
HER FATHER FELL ILL SUDDENLY,
SO SHE HAS RETURNED TO THE TOWN WHERE HER PARENTS LIVE.
HA HA HA ...
I SEE
Miss Coco!?
Gyaah~!
THE LAST TIME THEY WERE APART, MISS COCO FELL INTO A POND ...
I BELIEVE SHE WAS CHASING A BUTTERFLY

MISS COCO CAME DOWN WITH A BAD COLD AND FOR A SHORT WHILE AFTERWARDS WAS AFRAID TO EVEN STEP OUTSIDE.
IT ISN'T ANYTHING TO LAUGH ABOUT.
I SEE. PLEASE FORGIVE ME.
WHILE THE HOUSEKEEPER IS AWAY, PLEASE KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON MISS COCO.
YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT SHE MIGHT DO NEXT.
I UNDERSTAND.
AND HERE WE HAVE THE LITTLE GIRL IN QUESTION. SHE'S JUST TEN YEARS OLD, BUT...
SHE HOLDS THE TITLE OF "MARQUISE", AND IS THE OWNER OF THIS HUGE MANSION.
HEY, HEY-- NIDELL!

TO MAKE A LONG STORY SHORT, I WAS HIRED TO TUTOR THIS CHILD.
WHICH DO YOU THINK IS CUTER, THE YELLOW RIBBON OR THE BLUE RIBBON?
I TRIED CURLING MY HAIR!
I'LL BE DAMNED, THIS GIRL'S QUICK
SO? WHICH ONE? WHICH ONE?
LET'S MOVE ON TO THE NEXT PROBLEM ...
I SOLVED IT!
WHAT ABOUT THAT PROBLEM I GAVE YOU?
OH MY! DO YOU HAVE A COLD, NIDELL?
IT'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
THAT'S NOT GOOD, NIDELL--YOU SHOULDN'T PUSH YOURSELF!
YOU LOOK RATHER UNWELLL ...
knock knock

ABOUT WHAT?
IT'S REALLY NOT THAT BAD--
KOFF
ゴホ.
EVEN THOUGH NIDELL IS SICK, HE WANTS TO CONTINUE THE LESSON!

PARDON ME, MISS COCO ...
OH, GRAMPS!
I BET HE'LL SAY THE SAME THING!


KOFF
ゴホ
KOFF
ゴホ
HACK
KOFF
ゴホ
HACK
.....

I'M NOT THAT --
YEAH!
WHY DON'T YOU TAKE TODAY OFF?

Hmph
.....

IT WOULDN'T DO IF YOU WERE TO GIVE YOUR COLD TO MISS COCO.

THAT GEEZER ...
THE ONLY THING HE'S REALLY WORRIED ABOUT IS HIS DEAR "MASTER" CATCHING WHAT I'VE GOT.
kofi
kofi
tmp
AH.
SIR NIDELL.
SPEAK OF THE DEVIL ..
PLEASE TAKE THIS.
clatter
IT'S APRICOT JAM.
PLEASE TRY PUT-TING SOME IN YOUR TEA.
IT SHOULD HELP YOUR THROAT.
TH-
THANK YOU ...
ALSO ...

YOUR ENTHUSIASM IS ADMIRABLE, BUT PLEASE MAKE SURE TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR OWN BODY.

...
THANKS.

stare
じっ
.....

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE... COULD NIDELL ACTUALLY BE SERIOUSLY ILL OR SOMETHING?!
DON
GRAMPS WAS BEING NICE TO NIDELL!
AH! UH, NEVERMIND, IT DOESN'T MATTER ...
AND WHAT ARE YOU UP TO, MISS COCO?
STARTLED
WH-WHAT SHOULD I DO?! HOW CAN I--?!
WELL, GUESS I'LL GO REST
HOW DO YOU CURE A COLD?!
HEY!
Y-YES, MISS?!
GASP!
GRAB!

LET'S SEE ...
A... COLD?
CANDY ?!
WELL, WHEN YOU HAVE A SORE THROAT, CANDY IS ALWAYS NICE...
I UNDER-STAND! THANKS!
dash
AH! MISS COCO ?!
HM ...
THAT'S WHAT I SAID BUT
NO CANDY, HUH ...
NOTHING SLINK
rummage
rummage

I'D PROBABLY BE SCOLDED IF I TRIED TO SNEAK ANYTHING FROM THE KITCHENS...
HMM...
キラリ
THAT'S IT!
I'LL JUST GO BUY SOME!
rustle
rustle
clatter
clatter

ガラ clatter
ガラ clatter
ガラ clatter
ガラ clatter
ガラ clatter
ガタ
CLATTER
WOAH!
THANK YOU SO MUCH, MISS COCO!
YOU WENT ALL THE WAY INTO TOWN JUST TO GET THIS FOR ME?!
I'LL HOP OUT, BUY SOME CANDY, AND COME BACK TO THE CART AS QUICK AS I CAN.
IT'LL BE OKAY! THIS CART ALWAYS LEAVES THE MANSION IN THE MORNING AND RETURNS IN THE EVENING
ガラ clatter
ガラ clatter
SQUEEZE
I CAN DEFINITELY BUY SOMETHING WITH THIS!
THERE WAS A WHOLE FARTHING* IN THAT DRAWER

FARTHING - A FOURTH OF A PENNY. DURING THIS ERA IN ENGLAND, IT WAS THE SMALLEST UNIT OF CURRENCY.

ざわ
ざわ
ざわ
ざわ
OH ...
SUN PHE
*"ZAWA" IS A SFX FOR BACKGROUND NOISE, PEOPLE TALKING, CROWDS, ETC.
SO MANY PEOPLE ...!
AMAZING ...

I-
I'D BETTER HURRY!
NEIGHH!
flinch!
Candy Mary
peek
peek
THAT KID ...
I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER SEEN HER AROUND HERE BEFORE
AND THOSE ARE SOME PRETTY FINE CLOTHES ...

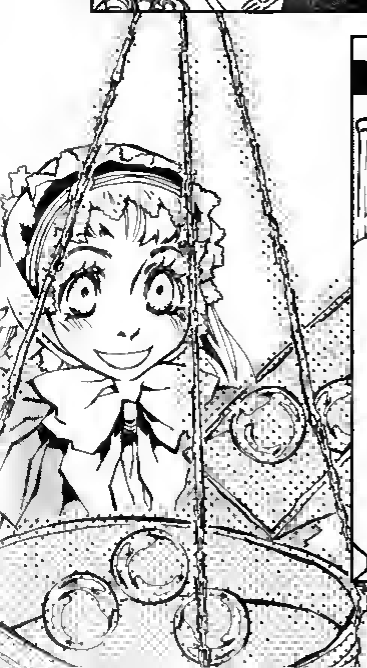
CAN I BUY CANDY WITH ONE FARTH-ING?

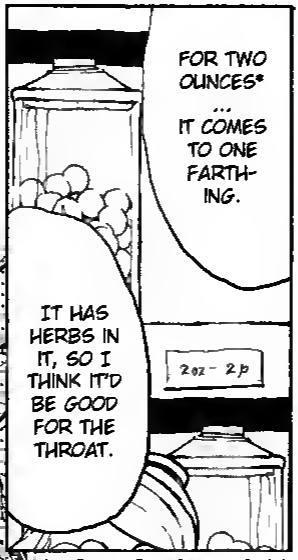
COME ON IN!

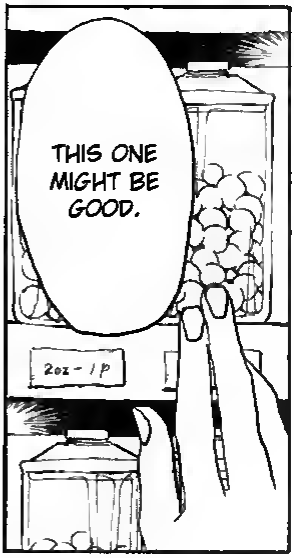
……

カシャ
CLICK
STARTLED

WHAT THE... THAT'S ALL SHE'S GOT?
ARE YOU LOOKING FOR ANY KIND IN PARTIC-ULAR?
Y-YES, UM...
DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING THAT WILL CURE A COLD?
A COLD?
Y-YES!
YOU SEE, NIDE--AH, MY, UM...
M-MY... FRIEND... IS TERRIBLY ILL...
A YOUNG MAN?
HUH?
AH! Y-YES, HE IS ...
"YOUNG"?
.....



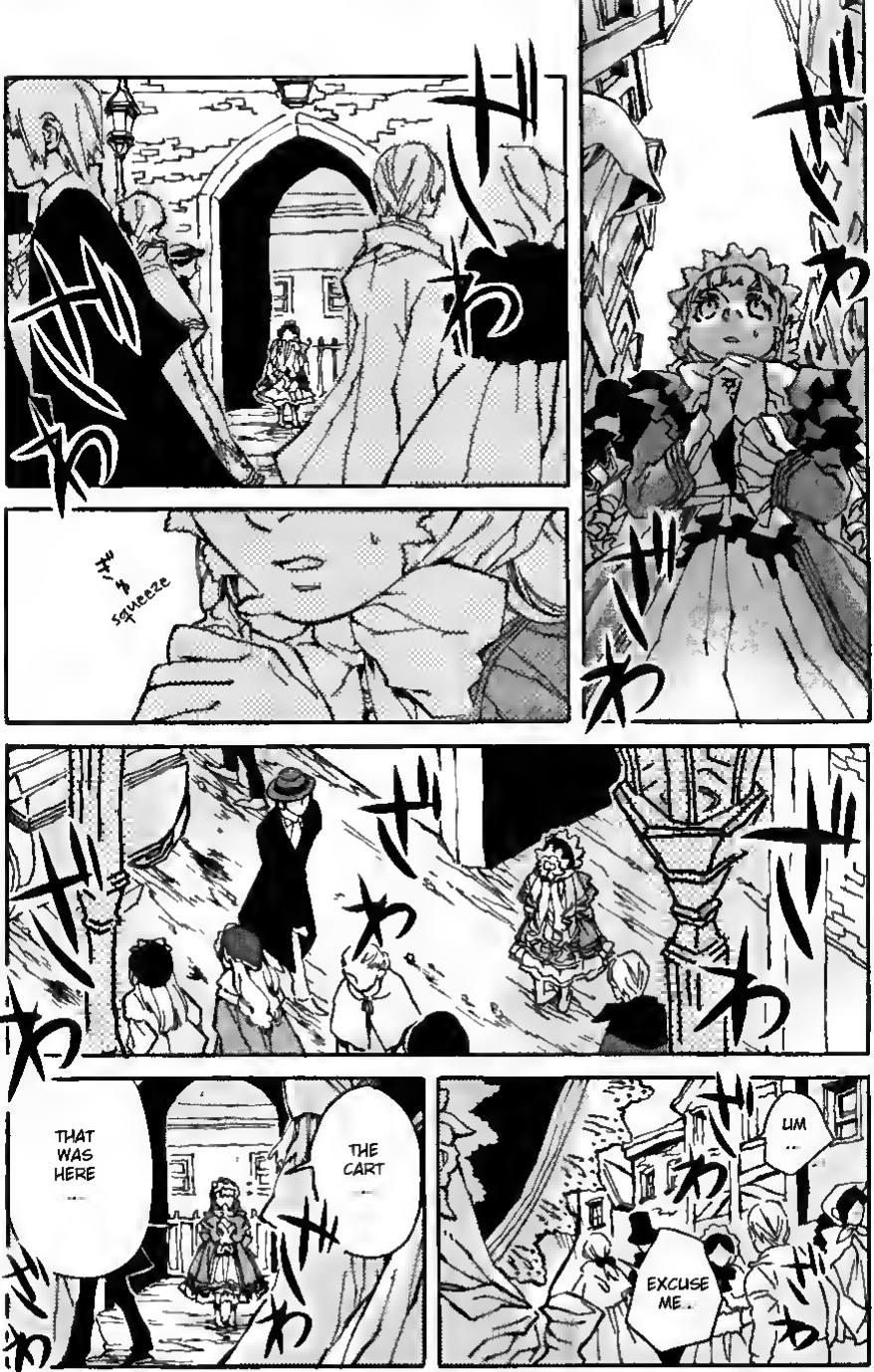




*ONE OUNCE = 28.3495 GRAMS

I HOPE YOUR FRIEND GETS WELL SOON.
YEAH! ME TOO!
NIDELL ...
I HOPE HE'LL BE HAPPY WHEN HE GETS THIS!

SIR NIDELL!
knock knock
SIGH...
WHAT IS IT?
FORGIVE ME FOR DISTURBING YOU WHILE YOU'RE RESTING ...
WELL ...
MISS COCO HAS DISA-PPEARED!!


ZAWA
ZAWA
ZAWA

I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS GOING TO TURN OUT LIKE THIS...

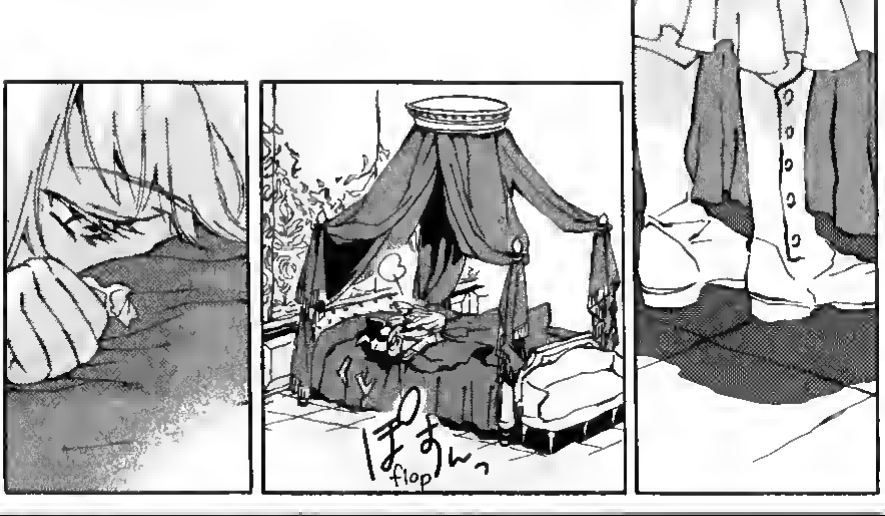
THIS IS NO TIME FOR IDLE CHATTER! HURRY, KEEP SEARCH-ING!!
YES, SIR!
WHY ...
WHY WOULD SHE ...
SHIVER

BUT IT'S FREEZING! IF SHE FELL IN THE POND IN THIS WEATHER ...
DID YOU FIND HER ?!
NO, SHE'S NOT HERE EITHER ...
MAYBE SHE LEFT THE ESTATE ...
IT COULDN'T BE...
ZAWA ZAWA - MURMUR
THAT TIME BEFORE, SHE WENT TO THE POND IN THE FOREST ...
!
THAT'S ..

キャッ
MISS COCO ?!
WOULD SOMEONE KINDLY EXPLAIN WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?
AHEM!
WHAT THE DEVIL WAS MISS COCO DOING IN TOWN, CROUCHED DOWN AND ALONE ON THE LANE?!
I TOLD YOU NOT TO LET HER OUT OF YOUR SIGHT!
すいません
WHY DON'T YOU TALK TO HER, RATHER THAN THE MAIDS?
MAIDS: "WE'RE SORRYYY!"

NIDELL ?!
HOW'S YOUR THROAT ?!
IS IT OKAY FOR YOU TO BE OUT OF BED?!
EH ...
BUT IT'S OBVIOUSLY USELESS TO EVEN TRY TALKING TO YOU!
WHO'S FAULT DO YOU THINK IT IS I'M UP AND RUNNING AROUND LIKE THIS?!
SNAP
I'LL NEVER RECOVER FROM MY COLD IF I CAN'T EVEN REST FOR HALF A DAY!
I WISH YOU WOULDN'T CAUSE SUCH COMMOTION!
"I HOPE"
"HE'LL BE HAPPY WHEN HE GETS THIS!"
I ...

I ...
SEE ...
IF SOME-THING
HAD HAPPENED TO YOU ...
NOW, NOW, SIR NIDELL.
I THINK MISS COCO UNDERSTANDS WHAT SHE'S DONE.
.....
... PLEASE GO TO YOUR ROOM.



"I WISH YOU WOULDN'T CAUSE SUCH COMMOTION!"

SO STUPID ...

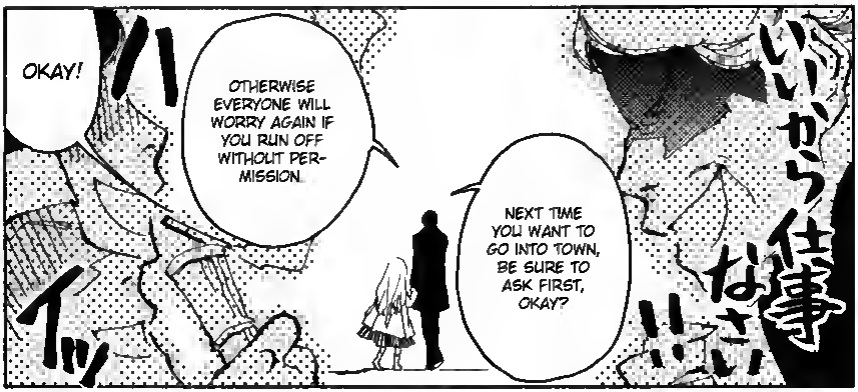
I'M ...

A CANDY SHOP?
IT SEEMS THAT MISS COCO SAID SOMETHING STRANGE, TOO.
SOMETHING STRANGE?
YES... A GOOD FRIEND OF MINE TOLD ME SHE HAD SEEN A WELL-DRESSED GIRL WHO LOOKED JUST LIKE MISS COCO ...
WHY WOULD SHE GO INTO TOWN JUST TO BUY SOME CANDY...?
SHE SAID SHE WANTED CANDY THAT COULD CURE A COLD.
MY FRIEND JUST SAID, "IT MUST BE NICE TO BE YOUNG, HUH?" ...
I WONDER WHAT THAT WAS ALL ABOUT
.....

IT'S BETTER IF YOU DON'T SAY ANYTHING
DON'T SAY A WORD
.....
MISS COCO HASN'T CAUGHT A COLD, HAS SHE?
OH! NO, MISS COCO
THE NEXT MORNING ...
どん
heavy atmosphere
より
abruptly
AH.
ばっ
だり。
tmp
tmp

.....
GOOD MORNING.
M-
MORNING, NIDELL!
heavy atmosphere
ぴんより
peek
チラ
バ
ガ
MISS COCO'S EYES AREN'T ALL RED.
UWAAH ... IT'S SO EARLY IN THE MORNING!
MY THROAT HURTS SO MUCH.
COUGH.
WHAT?
IS HE GOING TO SAY ALL HIS LINES IN THAT MONOTONE VOICE?
NO WAY —
IT CAN'T BE!
I'VE GOT A TERRIBLE COUGH.
えー!!
EH?!

Shiiine!
I DO!!
OH!
YOU WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO HAVE SOME CANDY OR SOMETHING WOULD YOU, MISS COCO?
MAIDS *IS HE SERIOUS?!* / *NO WAY!* / *IS THAT REALLY GOING TO WORK?!*
THIS WILL SURELY CURE MY COLD.
whew
TOO SWEET!
THANK YOU.
NIDELL
...
YEAH!
I KNEW YOU'D LIKE IT.


OKAY!
OTHERWISE EVERYONE WILL WORRY AGAIN IF YOU RUN OFF WITHOUT PERMISSION.
NEXT TIME YOU WANT TO GO INTO TOWN, BE SURE TO ASK FIRST, OKAY?
いいから仕事なさい!!

"YES MA'AM!" "GET BACK TO WORK!!"

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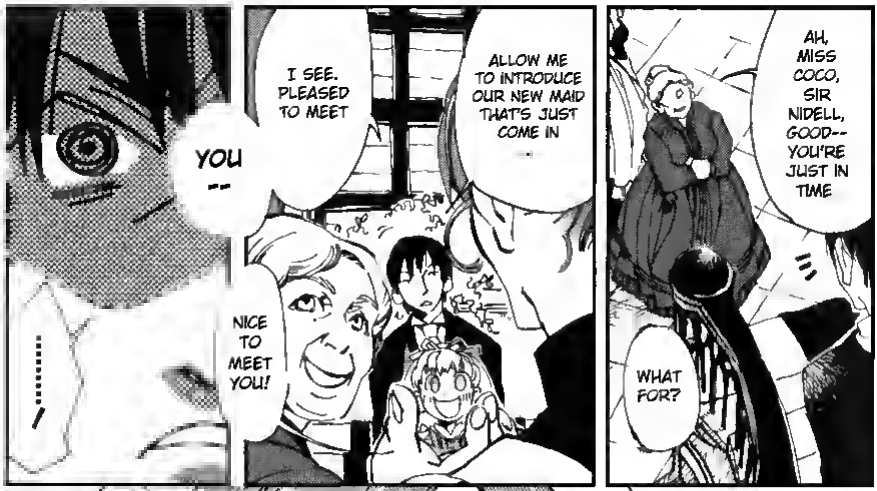
第3話 Chapter 3


AH, MISS COCO, SIR NIDELL, GOOD-- YOU'RE JUST IN TIME
WHAT FOR?
ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE OUR NEW MAID THAT'S JUST COME IN
I SEE. PLEASED TO MEET
NICE TO MEET YOU!
YOU --
.....!

Chapter 3
第3話
Vive hodie
(Live Today)

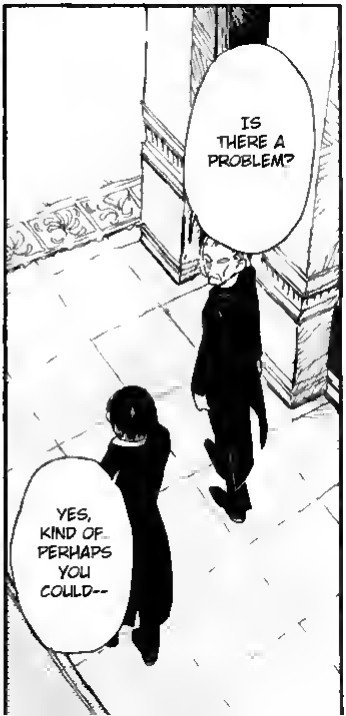
THIS IS MY OLD PLAYMATE FROM THE SLUMS.
WOW!
BUT HOW IN THE WORLD DID YOU BECOME A MAID FOR THE HOUSE OF THE MARQUIS?
WELL... IT'S NOT SOMETHING I WANT OTHERS TO HEAR ...
IT'S A SECRET.
HM?
fu~
shiver!

petrified
石更直
AH.
NORA
SLAP
ハン!!!
ahahaha
あはははは
YOU 'AVEN'T CHANGED A BIT, NIDELL!
I CAN'T STOP LAUGHIN'!
shake
shake
THAT REMINDS ME. THIS IS...?
WHAT? ARE YOU SERIOUS?!
WH...
MISS COCO IS THE MARQUISE ...
SHE'S OUR EMPLOYER!

WHO IN GOD'S NAME IS SHE?!

AH. MISS NORA?
SHE WAS RECOMMENDED BY THE BARON-- YOUR ADOPTIVE FATHER.
AS I THOUGHT.
THAT ECCENTRIC OLD...

.....
DIDN'T NOTICE


IS THERE A PROBLEM?
YES, KIND OF. PERHAPS YOU COULD--

AFTER EVERYTHING I DID TO GET THIS JOB, YOU'D BETTER NOT GO GIVIN' ANYBODY STRANGE IDEAS ABOUT ME!

"NORAAAAA!"

EVEN THOUGH I WAS BORN IN THE SLUMS AS WELL, HE INSISTS ON TREATING ME LIKE I'M HIS HEIR.
I SEE ...
THANKS TO HIM, I WAS ABLE TO LAND A JOB LIKE THIS EVEN THOUGH I'M FROM THE SLUMS!
I REALLY OWE THE BARON ...
I WON'T INHERIT HIS TITLE.
ALTHOUGH WE SHARE THE SAME BLOOD, I'M NOT OFFICIALLY HIS SON.
HUH? BUT AREN'T YOU THE BARON'S OLDEST SON?
WELL, IN ANY CASE ...
ARISOCRATS MAKE EVERY-THING SO COMPLICATED.
HMM ...

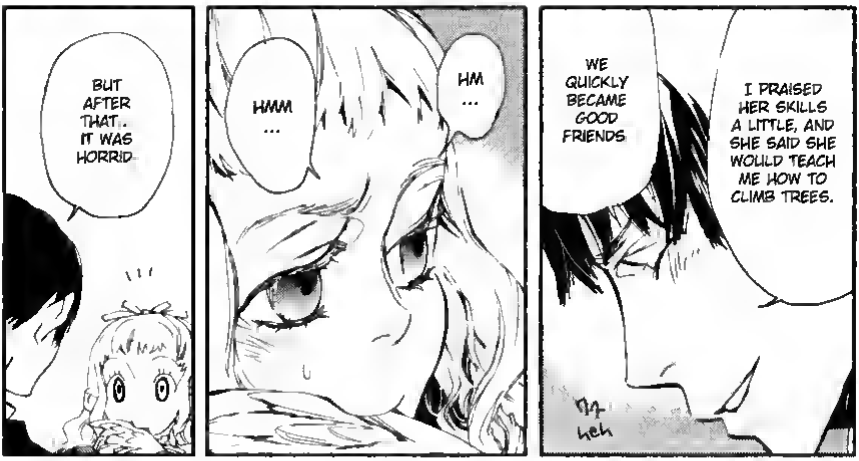
IF IT EVER GETS TO BE TOO MUCH FOR YOU AND YOU GO BACK TO THE SLUMS,
slap!
I'M SURE EVERYONE'LL GIVE YOU A WARM WELCOME!
WHO IN THE SLUMS WOULD WELCOME ME BACK?!
hmph
YOU'RE NOT VERY HONEST WITH YOURSELF, ARE YA?
I KNOW YOU'RE ACTUALLY HAPPY
OH.
HM?
stare
OH, MISS COCO.
... WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOUR EYES ARE AS BIG AS DINNER PLATES!

IT'S NEARLY STUDY TIME, SO I WAS GOING TO CALL FOR YOU, BUT ...
OH! FORGIVE ME.
nudge nudge
WELL, WE STILL LOVE YA ANYWAY, NIDELL!
LOOK HERE, CAN'T YOU DO SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR COCKNEY ACCENT?!
HOW MEAN! S'NOT THAT BAD!
WELL, YOU'LL JUST 'AVE TO TEACH ME PROPER KING'S ENGLISH, THEN!
...IT WOULD NEVER WORK.
N-
NIDELL IS MY TEACHER, SO WHY ...?!

THE BARON'S ESTATE, SEVEN YEARS AGO...
RUSTLE
?
A PERS--
SLIP!
KYAAH!
A BIRD?
WHAT WAS THAT?
WHA
NGAH!
M!

UH-HUH.
AND THAT WAS MISS NORA?

I ONLY EVER SAW HER FALL THAT ONCE.
APPARENTLY SHE WAS NERVOUS BECAUSE SHE'D SNUCK ONTO THE
SHE REALLY WAS VERY GOOD AT CLIMBING TREES
IT SEEMS THAT SHE HAD BEEN WANTING TO CLIMB THE OAK TREE ON THE BARON'S ESTATE FOR A LONG TIME.


BUT AFTER THAT. IT WAS HORRID.
HMM ...
HM ...
WE QUICKLY BECAME GOOD FRIENDS.
I PRAISED HER SKILLS A LITTLE, AND SHE SAID SHE WOULD TEACH ME HOW TO CLIMB TREES.

"TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, FATHER TOOK A LIKING TO HER, AND SHE GOT COMPLETELY OUT OF HAND."

"THERE'S NOT ONE GOOD THING ABOUT NORA COMING HERE."

"AND ALL SHE DOES IS GET ANGRY."

SHE PRETENDED I WAS HER "APPRENTICE", AND PARADED AROUND THE BARON'S ESTATE AS IF SHE OWNED THE PLACE.
SHE MADE ME GO OUTSIDE WITH HER EVERY-DAY.
SHE EVEN FOLLOWED ME TO SCHOOL
crumple

CROWD: "WHISPER" "WHISPER" / NORA: "HURRY AND CLIMB UP!"
ARROW: AND THIS / NORA: "HERE! HAVE SOME!"
NORA: "I FOLLOWED YOU HERE!" / CROWD: "WHISPER" "WHISTLE"

A YOUNG MAN AND WOMAN IN THE SAME BED--
THAT'S DISGUS-TING!
BAM!
NIDELL, YOU IDIOT!
WAIT-- MISS COCO?!
ZOOM!
WH-
WHAT IN THE WORLD
I SAY... MISS COCO KNOWS PHRASES LIKE "SLEEPING IN THE SAME BED"

SIR NIDELL ?
WAS TODAY'S LESSON ON TAG,
SIGH
SHE DIS-APPEARED JUST THE OTHER DAY, TOO
I- I CAN OFFER NO EXCUSE ...
SHE'S SO QUICK-- I LOST SIGHT OF HER
LET'S HURRY AND BEGIN OUR SEARCH.
YES

WHAT'RE YA DOIN'?!
SMACK!
tmp
tmp
NORA ...
HIDE AND SEEK ISN'T REALLY MY SPECIALTY
YOU'VE GOTTA SHOW MISS COCO WHAT YOU CAN DO!
SMILE
COME ON LET'S START LOOKIN'!
.....
SORRY ...

YEAH ...
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
HMPH!
HOW COULD NIDELL ...
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
rustle
rustle
rustle

"SHE REALLY WAS VERY GOOD AT CLIMBING"--
AN OAK TREE ...
rustle
.....
rustle

ZAWA - SOUNDS OF A CROWD

THIS IS BAD ...
WHY IS SHE IN A PLACE LIKE THAT ...?!
MISS COCO ?!
SHE CAN'T CLIMB BACK DOWN!
SHAKE
SHAKE
LIFT!
NORA?!
IT'S DANGEROUS! ESPECIALLY IN THOSE CLOTHES!
AND WOMEN SHOULDN'T EXPOSE THEIR LEGS IN PUBLIC!
I'LL BE FINE.
I'M THE ONE WHO TRAINED YOU AFTER ALL.
BESIDES ...

YOU TRUST ME, DON'T YOU?
MISS COCO!
IS THAT HOW IT IS?
.....
EH?
WHAT?!
WHS?
CLIMBING SFX: RUSTLE RUSTLE

PLEASE GRAB AHOLD OF ME,
MISS NORA
N...
ふり向いて!
TURN!
NO!
HUH? WHY NOT?
ALL NIDELL EVER DOES IS TALK ABOUT YOU!
WHAT?
YOU SNUCK INTO NIDELL'S BED!
I DON'T WANT TO BE TOUCHED BY SOMEONE LIKE YOU!
AH...
THAT'S...

NORA !!
EEP!
WELL, I'LL JUST HAVE TO GET YOU DOWN BY FORCE, THEN.
N-
SLAP!
NO !!
OH!

STANDBY
FLUTTER

GRAB!
WHOOSH
TAP!
WHUMP!

whisper
I WON'T FORGIVE HER...
EH?
GRAB!
WH-
N-
NORA ...?
SILENCE
OH, YOU POOR, NAÏVE LITTLE GIRL!

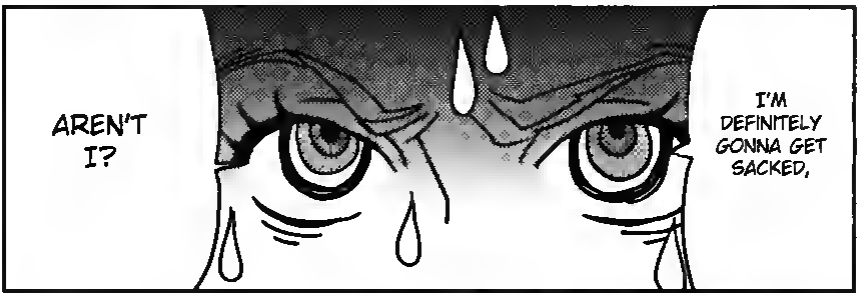
OH NO... NORA'S IMPOSSIBLE TO CONTROL WHEN SHE GETS LIKE THIS
WHO'S GONNA SAVE YOU ?!
IF I'M SUCH A "DIRTY" WOMAN ...
WELL, THAT'S TRUE, BUT...?
.....
OH ...
N-
THEN WHILE YOU'RE TAKIN' YOUR SWEET TIME, MAYBE I'LL JUST STEAL AWAY YOUR DEAR TEACHER NIDELL!
NOO!
やめ!!
NIDELL IS MY TEACHER!!

.....
THEN WHY DON'CHA COME DOWN AND STOP ME?
OR IS YELLING THE ONLY THING YOU CAN DO?
TAP
...
EVEN IF SHE'S NOBILITY, AREN'T YOU CODDLING HER TOO MUCH?
IT'S DANGER-OUS!
MISS COCO!
ZAWA - CROWD MURMURING
OH, KNOCK IT OFF!
SHE CAN CLIMB DOWN ON HER OWN.
MISS COCO ...
MUKU!
.....

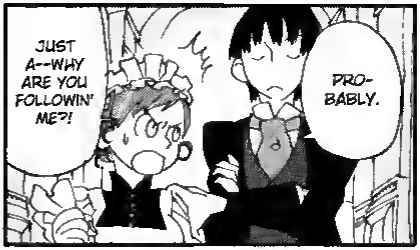
ZAWA - NOISES OF THE CROWD
MAIDS. "WHY DID HE SLAP HER?" / "KYAAH! A LOVER'S QUARREL?!"

AH!
SLIP!
MISS COCO !!
ZAWA - MANY PEOPLE TALKING AT ONCE
NOBLES MAY HAVE BEEN RAISED DIFFERENTLY, BUT THEY ARE STILL HUMAN BEINGS.
EVERYONE SEES THINGS FROM THEIR OWN POINT OF VIEW.
DON'T MAKE LIGHT OF SOMETHING JUST BECAUSE YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND IT.

I'M A BIT EMBARASSED THAT I GOT SO OUT OF CONTROL
MISS COCO!
ARE YOU ALRIGHT ?!
SHE'S SO IMPORTANT TO HIM THAT HE RAN TO RESCUE HER LIKE THAT, HUH—



MISS NORA.
MISS NORA
YOU'RE SO GLOOMY! AND YOU STUDY TOO MUCH!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! I JUST RAISED MY VOICE A LITTLE BIT!
IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE MAD AT ME, ISN'T IT?!

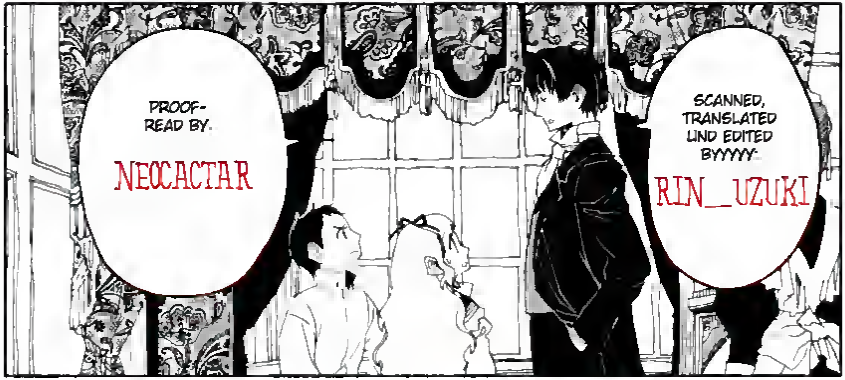


*NIDELL: "THAT KIND OF BEHAVIOR IS PRECISELY WHAT GOT YOU SACKED!"
SFX: "GRAAH!" / "GYAAH!"

AH ...
SPLAT
THROW
MISS NOR-
SHUT IT! WHADDYA WANT?!
... EH?
I KNEW IT.
YOU ARE HEREBY PROMOTED TO THE POSITION OF NURSEMAID.
AT MISS COCO'S REQUEST ...
SFX: BA-DOOM
IN OTHER WORDS, MISS COCO'S PERSONAL MAID.
NURSE-MAID.

THAT'S GOOD.
HUG!
ALL RIGHT !!
dear me.
...I'M DOING MY BEST...
AUGH! JEEZ LET ME GO!
ARE YOU CERTAIN YOU DON'T WISH HER FIRED?

~COCO&NORA~



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Chapter 4
第4話

Chapter 4

第4話

Tu fui, ego eris.

(What You Are, I Was. What I Am, You Will Be.)

*"COCO-SAMA" = "MISS COCO". I LEFT THE HONORIFIC "SAMA" FOR THIS PAGE SINCE IT TIES IN WITH "MAMA".

NINETEENTH CENTURY GREAT BRITAIN
THE BRITISH EMPIRE WAS STILL THE "WORKSHOP OF THE WORLD"
A CERTAIN TUTOR FOR THE HOUSE OF THE MARQUIS, ILLEGITIMATE CHILD OF A BARON. NIDELL ...
.....
HAS JUST HURT HIS CHIN.
I-I'M SORRY, NIDELL ...
YOU'VE GOT SOME NERVE, MISS COCO, DOZING OFF DURING MY LESSON ...

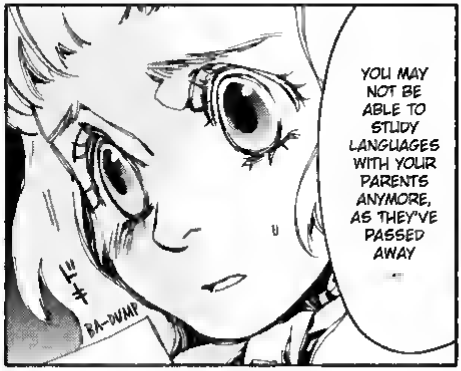
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I LAST HAD THAT DREAM ...
GOODBYE, COCO ...
MAMA ...
NO BULLY-ING MISS COCO!
ugh
I JUST GAVE HER THIS PROB-LEM.
LIAR! SHE'S PRACT-ICALLY CRY-ING!
WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?
I'M NOT BULLY-ING HER, NORA!
point!

"THEREFORE "PULCHER,-A,-UM" IS THE TRUE ADJECTIVE, BUT THE FEMININE FORM "PUELLA" COMBINES WITH THE ABLATIVE CUM+ABL BECOMES THE THIRD PERSON SINGULAR "VIVO-ERE" CONJUGATING THE VERB RESULTS IN THE INFINITIVE MOOD FORM "-ERE". THIS VERB CAN BE CONJUGATED THREE WAYS, WHICH RESULTS IN ....THIS TYPE OF CONJUGATION USUALLY OCCURS AT THE END OF SENTENCES, IN WHICH CASE IT TAKES THE FORM "VIVIT"...." / "IN OTHER WORDS, THIS..."

SURA SURA! READING SMOOTHLY

NORA: "YOU BRAINWASHER!"

SFX. WOWWW!



OKAY!
AND I CAN'T REPLACE THEM, BUT I'M HAPPY TO TEACH YOU WHAT I CAN.
YOU LOOK SO SERIOUS, BUT MAYBE YOU'RE ACTALLY A... PERV...
ほの peace
ほの ful
NORA: "OH NO! A LOLICON?" (PEDOPHILE)
YOUR METHOD OF TEACHING IS FAR TOO LAX!
WHAT ?
COMING FROM THE SLUMS, THE ILLEGITIMATE CHILD OF A BARON... YOU'VE INDURED MANY HARDSHIPS...
TO THINK THAT ALL YOUR BITTERNESS AND PAIN COULD BE WIPED AWAY BY ONE LITTLE GIRL WHO ADORES YOU TO DEATH...!
HAH!
YOU'VE GOTTEN EVEN CHEEKIER LATELY ...
NIDELL: "NORAAAAA!"

PLEASE, DON'T GO IN, SIR
IT'S FINE, BUTLER
THAT MAN DOESN'T DESERVE EVEN THE LOWEST FORM OF COURTESY
AH, SI-
BANG!
R...
GYAAAAH!
HOHOHOH!
I'LL JUST HAVE TO SHOW YOU HOW IT'S DONE!

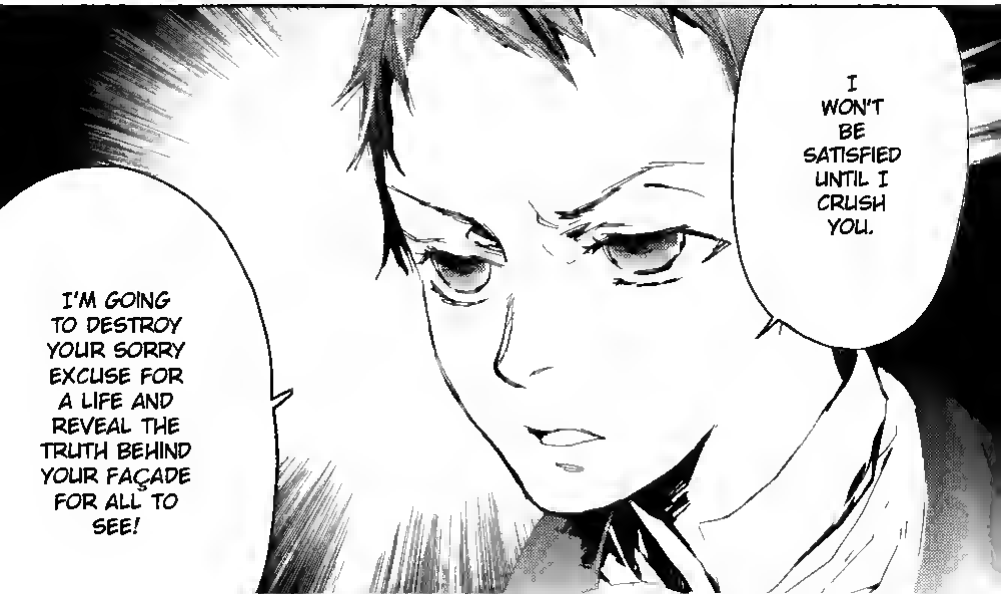
HUH?
...ARTHUR?!
WH-WHO'S THAT?
.....
SILENCE ん...
...HEH.
HAHAHAHAHAHAHA!!
はははは!!
FLINCH!
OH NIDELL, THAT'S RICH! YOU'VE REALLY OUTDONE YOURSELF. BUT I SUPPOSE IT'S ONLY TO BE EXPECTED ...
YOU ARE THE SON OF THE BITCH WHO SEDUCED MY FATHER, AFTER ALL.
HE'S MY... BROTHER.
EH?!

SPLASH!
A MAN WHO CAVORTS WITH MAIDS
HAS NO BUSINESS CALLING ME HIS "BROTHER".
WH-
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, OUT OF THE BLUE LIKE THAT?!
AH, PLEASE FORGIVE MY RUDENESS
YOU
TEXT: "GUARDED BY NIDELL'S JACKET"
YOU MUST BE THE DAUGHTER OF THE MARQUIS, NO?
I'M ARTHUR THE ELDEST LEGITIMATE SON OF THE BARON
I'M NEXT IN LINE FOR THE BARONY
YOU ARE IN ERROR, SIR.

THE MARQUIS PASSED AWAY TWO YEARS AGO.
AH, THE FLOWER
WHAT ?
THE GIRL IN FRONT OF YOU IS THE MASTER OF THIS MANSION--THE MARQUISE HERSELF.
... HUH ...?

I'M TERRIBLY
SORRY.
PLEASE FORGIVE MY DISCOURTESY!
OF COURSE A WOMAN AS LOVELY AS YOU WOULD BE THE MARQUISE.
WELL, THAT'S...
...WHY ARE YOU HERE?
COCO: "EHEHEH... "LOVELY", HUH?"
IT HAS BEEN DECIDED...
THAT I SHOULD BRING YOU BACK TO THE BARON'S ESTATE.
HUH?!
DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE FORGOTTEN.
IT STILL HAS NOT BEEN DECIDED WHO WILL INHERIT THE BARONY.

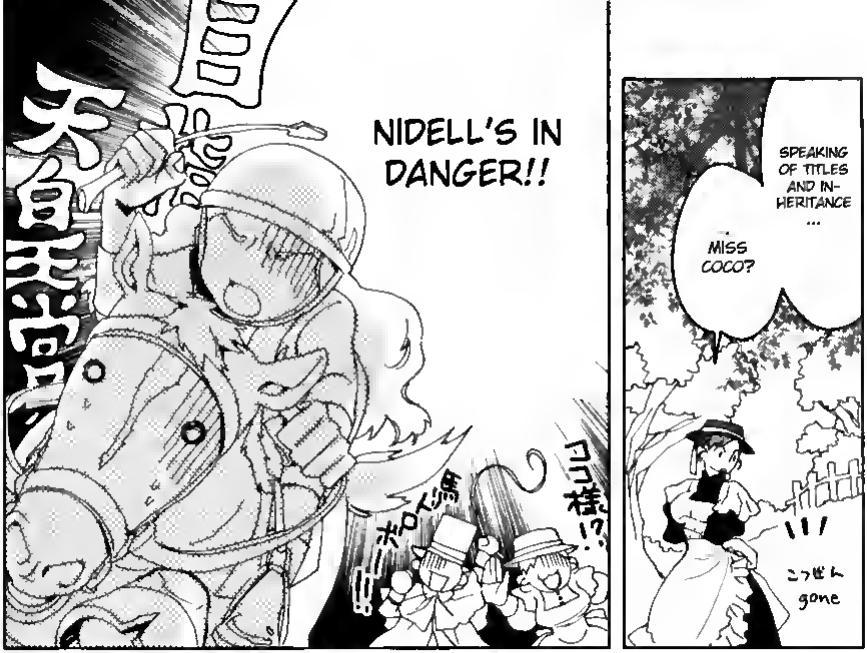
IN THAT CASE, YOU WOULD ALSO BE HIS LEGITIMATE HEIR.
FATHER SAID THAT HE INTENDS TO REMARRY. MARRY YOUR MOTHER, THAT IS.
YOU ARE --
BUT ...
.....
IS IT ALRIGHT FOR YOU TO BE OUT OF THE HOUSE LIKE THIS?
#11. GRIP
YOU IRRITATE ME TO NO END.
HOW GENEROUS OF YOU TO WORRY ABOUT YOUR RIVAL!


I WON'T BE SATISFIED UNTIL I CRUSH YOU.
I'M GOING TO DESTROY YOUR SORRY EXCUSE FOR A LIFE AND REVEAL THE TRUTH BEHIND YOUR FAÇADE FOR ALL TO SEE!

DO YOU KNOW ARTHUR, MISS NORA?
OUT FOR A STROLL 中
AYE, BEING NIDELL'S CHILDHOOD FRIEND, I'VE KNOWN ARTHUR SINCE HE WAS JUST A LAD.
そーゆー
you know
EVER SINCE THAT CHILD BECAME THE HEIR TO THE BARONY
HE'S BULLIED NIDELL.
BULLIED?!
いじめ!?

BEEF WALLET STEAK / CATERPILLARS DOWN HIS BACK / THUMBTACKS IN HIS SHOES / FROGS IN HIS BED / "ENDLESS ANGUISH" / "IT'S HOPELESS!"

BUT LITTLE ARTHUR WAS ALWAYS DOING SOMETHING OR OTHER TO NIDELL.
AND TO MAKE THINGS WORSE, HIS FAMILY PRETENDED NOT TO NOTICE ...
牛皮ライフのステーキ
肉
もんもん

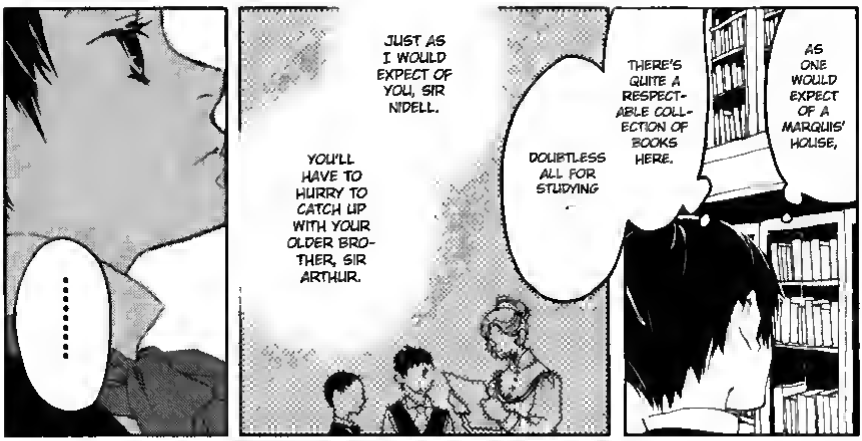


GUY: "HORSE THIEF!" NORA: "MISS COCO?!"

ARE YOU OKAY, NIDELL?!
ANY CATERPILLARS? TACKS? BEEF WALLET STEAKS?!
EH
grab!
IS SOMETHING WRONG? WHAT'S ALL THE NOISE ABOUT?
AH!
mu
...
...
...
HUH?
HOW DID THAT HAPPEN?!
teensy-weensy

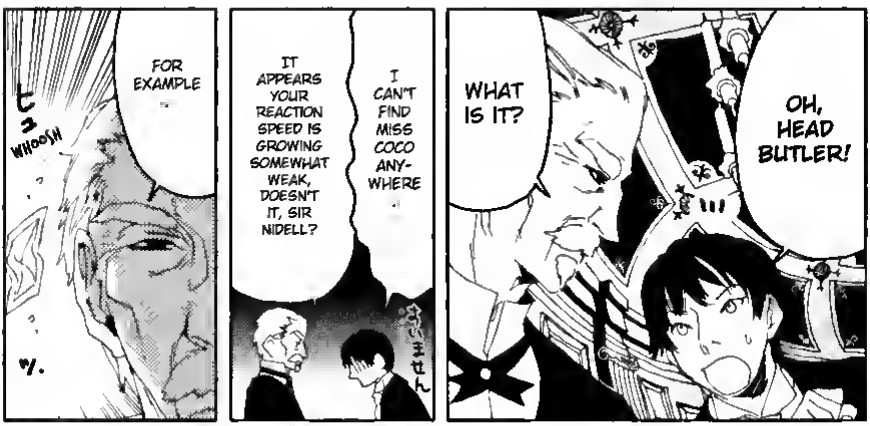
DOOM
THERE WAS A RAZOR IN THE ENVE-LOPE !!
オン
OH.
A LITTLE WHILE AGO, ARTHUR GAVE ME A LETTER FROM FATHER, AND...
EH
え
THAT'S TERRIBLE!!
SFX ZOOOM
I THINK THERE'S BEEN SOME SORT OF MISUNDER-STANDING
WHEN I WAS OPEN-ING THE LETTER,
I MIS-HANDLED THE PAPER KNIFE AND CUT MY FINGER ...
UH, MISS CO--
ピュー
I WON'T ALLOW ANYONE TO BULLY YOU, NIDELL!

SO THIS IS THE STUDY ROOM?
tock

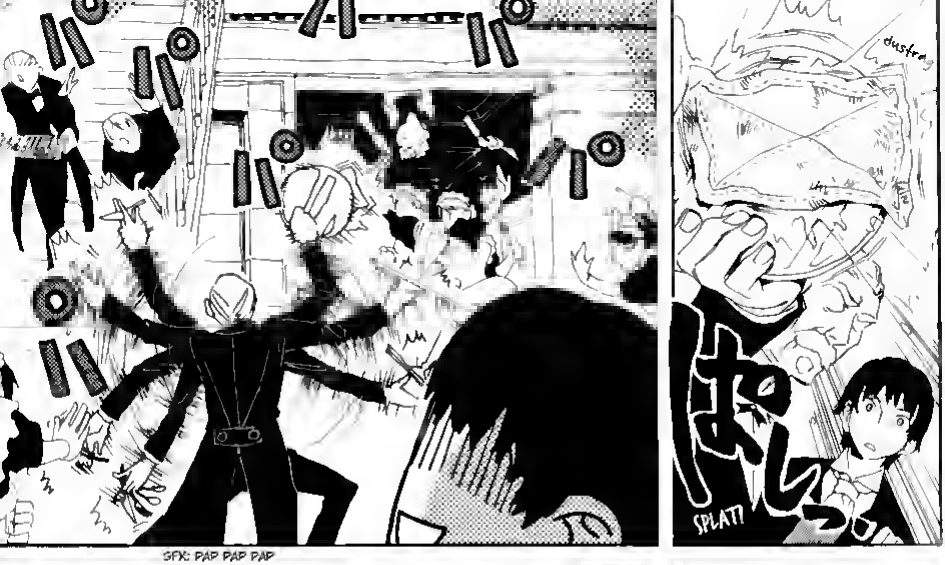

AS ONE WOULD EXPECT OF A MARQUIS' HOUSE,
THERE'S QUITE A RESPECTABLE COLLECTION OF BOOKS HERE.
DOUBTLESS ALL FOR STUDYING
JUST AS I WOULD EXPECT OF YOU, SIR NIDELL.
YOU'LL HAVE TO HURRY TO CATCH UP WITH YOUR OLDER BROTHER, SIR ARTHUR.
.....

A CONTEST !!
DO-N
thud!
Uh...
.....
MISS COCO?
JUST COCO IS FINE

EVEN THOUGH I'M JUST HIS STUDENT, I'M MORE THAN A MATCH FOR YOU!
ER ...
UH ...
IF I WIN, THEN YOU MUST STOP BULLY-ING NIDELL AND LEAVE QUIETLY!
NIDELL IS AMAZING! HE CAN SOLVE ANY PROBLEM WITH EASE!
AND HIS LESSONS ARE EASY TO UNDER-STAND!
THERE'S NO WAY YOU COULD BE SMART-ER THAN NIDELL, SO YOU CAN'T WIN!
GRR


FOR EXAMPLE
WHOOSH
IT APPEARS YOUR REACTION SPEED IS GROWING SOMEWHAT WEAK, DOESN'T IT, SIR NIDELL?
I CAN'T FIND MISS COCO ANY-WHERE
WHAT IS IT?
OH, HEAD BUTLER!

NIDELL "FORGIVE ME--"



SFX: PAP PAP PAP

TAKE CARE!
BY THE WAY, MISS COCO IS WITH SIR ARTHUR IN THE STUDY ROOM.
NEXT TIME, PLEASE SAY SO SOONER
OH ... I SEE ...
MISS NORA IS THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS EVER ATTEMP-TED TO CHALLENGE ME

TOCK

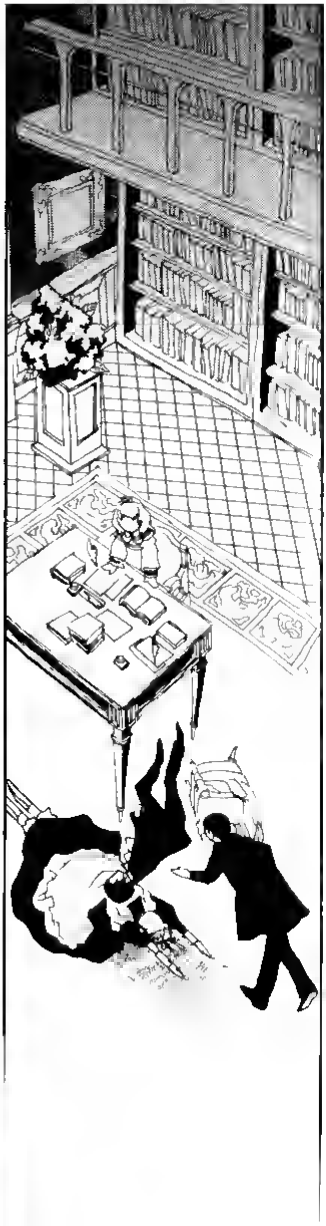
BUTLER: *IN ORDER TO EXTRACT MY REVENGE *

WHAT'S THIS ...?
カリカリカリ
SKRTCH SKRTCH SKRTCH
カリカリカリ
SKRTCH SKRTCH SKRTCH
A TEST ...?
WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE THEY DOING?

YOU THINK I NEED TO "CATCH UP" WITH A COMMONER LIKE NIDELL?
DON'T JEST, PROFESSOR, PLEASE.
.....
WHAT PURPOSE DOES STUDYING SERVE, IN HIGH SOCIETY?
USELESS CONSUMPTION OF KNOW-LEDGE IS A BASE ACTIVITY FIT ONLY FOR THE MASSES!
ARTHUR ...

FINISH-
あ
oh.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SEEN HIM APPLYING HIMSELF TO HIS STUDIES SO SERIOUSLY ..
wobble
ン
ED
ン
A ...
ARTHUR !!
THUD

NORA "YOU SHOULD TRY AT LEAST THIS HARD!"



"HE CANNOT BELONG TO HIGH SOCIETY IN SUCH A STATE!"
"HE COLLAPSED? DUE TO STRESS?"
"STRONG, TOO..."
"NIDELL, YOU'RE BRILLIANT!"
WAIT ...!
I JUST FEEL A BIT DIZZY!
"YOU CAN DO IT, NIDELL, I THINK YOU SHOULD BE THE ONE TO INHERIT THE BARONY!"
"IT SEEMS HE HAS THE SAME HEART CONDITION AS HIS MOTHER, THE BARON'S LATE WIFE."
I'M STILL ...!
"I'M AFRAID THE BARON'S LEGITIMATE CHILD AND HEIR MAY ..."

NORA: "OH! HE'S COME TO!" MAID: "THANK GOODNESS!"

YOU'RE AWAKE?
OH ...
whew
NIDELL ...
YOU'RE IN NO CONDITION TO BE OUT-SIDE.
GO BACK HOME, ARTHUR.
"PLEASE DON'T SAY SUCH THINGS, FATHER."
WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO BE UN-HAPPY ABOUT?
IT'S ONLY RIGHT THAT YOU, THE LEGITIMATE CHILD, SHOULD INHERIT THE BARONY.
I'VE NO INTEREST IN RANKS OR TITLES.

"AR-
THUR
CAN
HEAR
YOU."
squeeze
WHA?
HEY
YOU SHOULDN'T BE OUT OF BED YET ...
SMACK

DON'T YOU DARE PITY ME!
I'M NOT HALF AS PITIFUL AS YOU!
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE ACTUALLY DYING TO GET A TITLE OF YOUR OWN ...
YOUR CALM AND COMPOSED ATTITUDE MAKES ME SICK!
YOU SMOTHER YOUR DESIRE WITH THAT CALM DE-MEANOR!
IT'S NOTHING BUT A BLOODY MASK!
AL-RIGHT.

SORRY.
I HAVE MY OWN PRIDE, TOO.
WHACK
NIDELL ?!
NIDELL ?!
WHY ...
thwm
WHY ...
YOU'RE BROTHERS ... WHY ARE YOU FIGHTING ...?
I THOUGHT ... YOU WERE GOING TO DIE ...
... LIKE MAMA AND PAPA ...

BUT ...
YOU WOKE UP ...
S- SO WHY ...
WHY ... AREN'T YOU BOTH HAPPY ...?

THE FAINT SMELL OF REVIVING SALTS ...

COCO ...

I KNOW FATHER'S LETTER EXPLAINS HOW TO ...
COPE ... WITH MY ATTACKS, SHOULD THEY OCCUR.

FATHER TRUSTS NIDELL TO NOT ONLY TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF, BUT TAKE CARE OF ME, TOO ...
CONSIDERING HIS SITUATION AND MINE, I SUPPOSE IT'S LITTLE WONDER.
SO...
IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
AND SO ...
THERE ARE JUST SOME THINGS I CAN'T GIVE UP.
... HE RAN AWAY AGAIN.

oh dear.
AS I WAS THE WINNER OF OUR LITTLE MATCH, I'LL BE STAYING HERE FOR AWHILE.
アーサー／満点
ココ／ほとんど不正解
CAPTION "ARTHUR GOT A PERFECT SCORE. COCO GOT ALMOST EVERYTHING WRONG."
I DIDN'T KNOW HE'D BE SO—
WHAT WERE YOU THINK-ING—?!
I'LL STAKE ALL MY PRIDE ON THIS CHANCE
TO FIND OUT YOUR TRUE INTENT-IONS.
IF YOU WON'T RETURN WITH ME, I'LL SIMPLY STAY HERE UNTIL I'VE BESTED YOU.
YOU'D BETTER PRE-PARE YOUR-SELF!
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?!
ARTHUR "HAHAHAHAHA!"
I WANT TO RUN AWAY ...
EH?!
COCO TRULY IS A LOVELY GIRL, ISN'T SHE?

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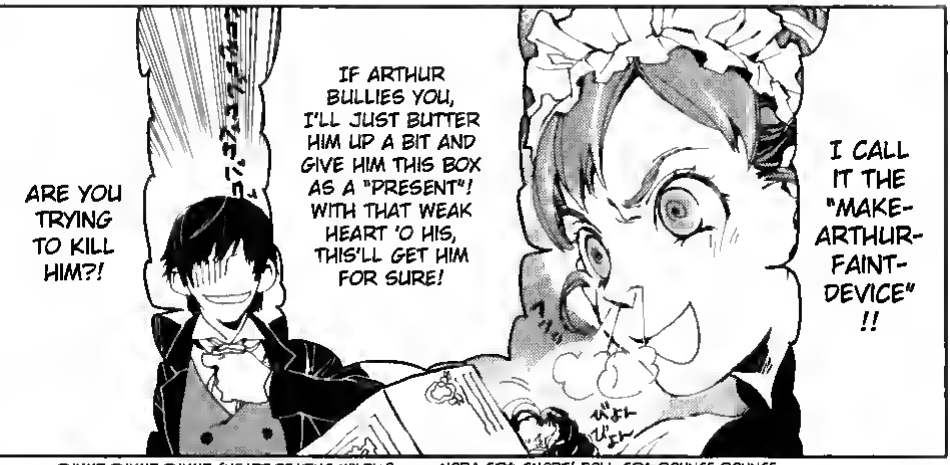
Chapter 5

第5話

Post nubila Phoebus.

(The Sun After The Clouds)

NINETEENTH CENTURY ENGLAND
THE HOUSE OF A CERTAIN MARQUISE
IS FRAUGHT WITH PROBLEMS.
NIDELL !!
LOOK, LOOK! AN AMAZING NEW IN-VENTION!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING ON ABOUT, NORA?
EHEHEH HEHEH!
THIS!
OPEN IT AND SEE!
?
NIDELL: "A BOX OF CANDY?"
NO open
GYAAAAH
*A DOLL
POP


ARE YOU TRYING TO KILL HIM?!
IF ARTHUR BULLIES YOU, I'LL JUST BUTTER HIM UP A BIT AND GIVE HIM THIS BOX AS A "PRESENT"! WITH THAT WEAK HEART 'O HIS, THIS'LL GET HIM FOR SURE!
I CALL IT THE "MAKE-ARTHUR-FAINT-DEVICE" !!
THUMP THUMP THUMP (HEART BEATING WILDLY)
NORA SFX. SNORT! DOLL SFX. BOUNCE BOUNCE

LITTLE ARTHUR'S PROBABLY WAITING FOR YOU ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT DOOR!
NON-SENSE ...
(DOOR UNLATCHING)

JEEZ! THAT'S NOT WHAT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO SAY TO YOUR CHILDHOOD FRIEND WHO'S WORRIED ABOUT YOU!
I CAN'T REMEMBER A SINGLE GOOD THING EVER COMING OF FOLLOWING ONE OF YOUR SUGGESTIONS.

HOW CRUEL! I WAS UP ALL NIGHT THINKIN' ABOUT THIS!
IT'S TIME FOR MY LESSON WITH MISS COCO.
NORA SFX GAN! (SHOCK)

WHAT?! BUT I CAN FEEL IT... DANGER IS LURKING JUST AROUND THE CORNER!
RETURN TO YOUR STATION, NURSE-MAID.
WAVE WAVE

OH, NIDELL!
IS IT THAT TIME ALREADY?
. . . WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, ARTHUR?
I'M SIMPLY STRENGTH-ENING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE MARQUISE, MISS COCO, AND THE BARON. IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH THAT?
警告
NORA: "I TOLD YOU SO!"
NORA: "SCONES!" ARTHUR: "HANDS OFF."
SORRY! PLEASE EXCUSE ME FOR A MOMENT. I MUST FETCH SOMETHING FROM MY ROOM
tmp tmp tmp
HUH? UH
SHH...
...
...
...
YOU'VE ...
BEEN SPENDING A LOT OF TIME WITH MISS COCO RECENTLY.
ARE YOUR EFFORTS TO "STRENGTHEN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE MARQUISE AND THE BARON" GOING TO END IN— MARRIAGE?
IF SO, IT CERTAINLY WOULDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH A VULGAR, LOW-CLASS PEON LIKE YOURSELF.
SFX: MUNCH MUCH MUNCH

NORA: "THAT'S A CRIME, IT IS!"

OH ...
PHEW! IT'S
R-RIGHT ...
WHILE I WOULD LIKE A TITLE ...
EH?! NIDELL AND MISS COCO?!
犯罪!
DON'T BE RIDICU-LOUS, NORA
真に受けんな
!!!
OHO! IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE AFTER?
IF YOU WERE TO MARRY MISS COCO,
NOT ONLY WOULD YOU GAIN A TITLE YOUR CHILD WOULD BE OF NOBLE BIRTH AS WELL

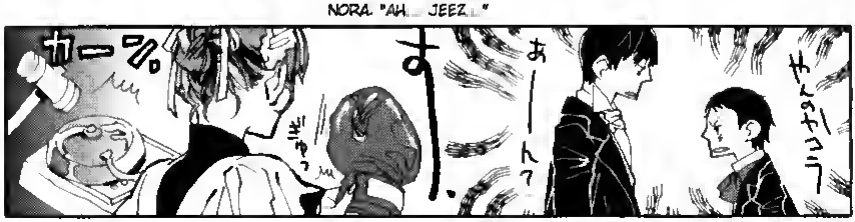
NIDELL "YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN TO TAKE HIM SERIOUSLY."

.....
IT'S ABSOLUTELY MEANINGLESS FOR ME TO OBTAIN ONE BY MARRYING SOMEONE A DECADE YOUNGER THAN ME--I WANT TO GAIN A TITLE BY MERIT OF MY OWN ABILITIES AND SKILLS

SFX HMPH
YOU TALK BIG.
EVEN IF YOU DID OBTAIN A TITLE, YOU WOULD SIMPLY GO FROM BEING AN "EMBARRASSMENT" TO BEING A "CURIOSITY".
ENTERING THE UPPER ECHELONS OF SOCIETY WOULD REQUIRE YOU TO BE QUITE THE HYPOCRITE-- YOU'D HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO GO ON FOREVER LYING ABOUT YOUR ORIGINS.
いや
いや
A PEASANT, THE ILLEGITIMATE CHILD OF A BARON, ACQUIRING A TITLE?
SURELY YOU JEST!
ARTHUR. "NO, NO, IT SIMPLY WOULDN'T DO..."
SFX HA!
ARTHUR, MY DEAR HALF-BROTHER!
ALTHOUGH I DESIRE A TITLE, I HAVE NO INTENTION OF ASSOSCIATING MYSELF WITH NOBILITY.
ONE DAY, THE "NOBILITY" WILL BOW DOWN BEFORE THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE
I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT HUMILIATION TASTES LIKE!

YOU CAN'T EVEN LEAVE YOUR BED MOST OF THE TIME--IT'S LITTLE WONDER YOU ENVY ME!
IN YOUR HEART OF HEARTS, DO YOU REALLY MISS THE DULL, IDLE CHATTER OF YOUR PRECIOUS UPPER CLASS THAT MUCH?
SOMEONE WHO CAN'T BEAR TO BE MOCKED SHOULDN'T PRETEND TO BE SO TOUGH ...
YOU HALFHEARTEDLY ACCEPT A JOB AS THE MARQUISE'S PRIVATE TUTOR AND YOU HAVE THE NERVE TO SAY YOU'RE GOING TO GET A TITLE?!
YOU'RE REALLY SOMETHING!
あー
もー

NORA: "AH... JEEZ..."



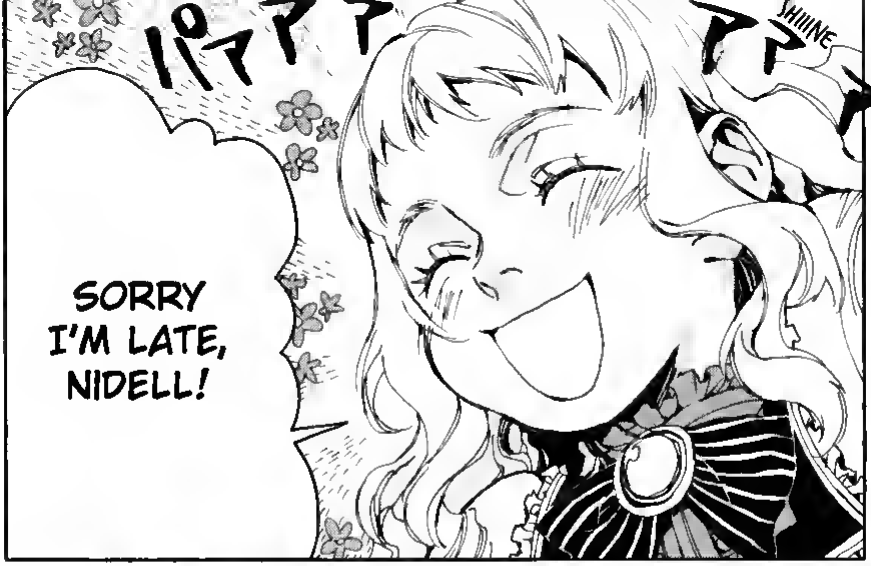
SFX: SHHHH / TUG / DING!

NIDELL: "WHAT?!"

ARTHUR: "YOU LOOKIN' FOR A FIGHT?!"

SHOULD GET ALONG, OKAY?

"A PEASANT, THE ILLEGITIMATE CHILD OF A BARON, ACQUIRING A TITLE?"
.....
HE CAN SPOUT OFF FLOWERY, EMPTY COMPLI-MENTS
WITH ONLY THE SHADOW OF A SNEER,
SO WHY IS IT ...
"SOMEONE WHO CAN'T BEAR TO BE MOCKED SHOULDN'T PRETEND TO BE SO TOUGH."
HONESTLY ...
HE ...
UNLATCH


パァアアア

astonished
HYPOTHETICALLY SPEAKING..
DO YOU THINK THERE'S ANY WAY I COULD BE KNIGHTED BY HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN?
AH ...
UH ...
WHAT I MEANT WAS--
oh!
eh?
THAT'S ...
GRAB!

AH... UH... I DID SAY H-HYPO-THETICALLY ...
I'LL BRAG TO THE WHOLE COUNTRY !!!
OH! RIGHT ...
OF COURSE YOU CAN !!!
SFX SNORT / SPARKLE SPARKLE
HAHA
?
I'M SURE YOU CAN EASILY GET ANY TITLE YOU WANT!
IF YOU'RE DETER-MINED TO DO IT, THEN
YOU'RE AMAZING, NIDELL!

EASILY ...
HEH ...
IT'S PROBABLY NOT POSSIBLE, BUT ...
SHALL I TRY MY BEST?
YEAH !!
YOU HAVE MY FULL SUPPORT !!
MISS COCO ...
HM ?

SFX: PAOOOOOOOOOOOO

DID YOU FIND WHAT YOU WERE LOOKING FOR?
HUH ...?
OH, BY THE WAY, YOU WERE TEN MINUTES LATE.
-LL !!
すが
CLOSE! HE'S SO CLOSE!
AHH, B-BUT ...
NIDE-
HERE GOES MY HUG!!
OH ...
SORTA ...
UH ...
WELL ...

SFX: SWIPE!

BUT YOU COULDN'T FIND THEM?
SOME-ONE HAD GIVEN ME THE MOST DELICOUS CHOCO-LATES,
AND I WAS LOOKING FOR THEM SO I COULD GIVE YOU SOME, BUT...
THAT BOX, HUH ...
I REALIZED I'D GIVEN THE BOX TO NORA YESTERDAY ...
WELL... AFTER I THOUGHT ABOUT IT,

THAT MUSCLE-HEADED WOMAN ...
SHE'S GOING TO KILL ME SOMEDAY!
...NORA?
JRK!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OVER TH--
E-RE?!
SHP
DASH!
WASN'T THAT MS. THURI'S VOICE JUST NOW?
I DIDN'T HEAR ANY VOICE
EH? WAS IT?

SFX: P/OOOOO
YOU!!
YOU'RE NOTHIN' BUT BAD NEWS!
YOU GOT NIDELL ALL DEPRESSED, SAYIN' WHAT YOU SAID!!
Point!
I REALLY DON'T SEE HOW THIS CONVERSATION FOLLOWS THAT BODY BLOW YOU JUST DELIVERED!
NIDELL WORRIES ABOUT YOU, YOU KNOW!
Grr
SO WHY DO YOU ALWAYS ACT SO HOSTILE TOWARDS HIM?
I'D RATHER DIE THAN HAVE SOMEONE LIKE NIDELL WORRY ABOUT ME!
PUNCH!

SERIOUSLY.
MY BAD ...
YOU NEARLY KILLED ME! YOU CAN'T MAKE ME FORGIVE YOU JUST LIKE THAT!
JUST SIT BACK AND TAKE IT EASY WHILE I MAKE YOU COMFORT-ABLE!
BUT PERHAPS YOU'RE ACTUALLY PICKING UP SOMETHING, SPENDING ALL THAT TIME IN THE STUDY ROOM?
freeze
HAH. YOUR FACE LOOKS BLANK ENOUGH ...
WHAT WAS THAT?
WHOEVER SAID "HAPPY IS HE, WHO LEARNS THE CAUSES OF THINGS"* ...?

NORA. *I IMPORTED THIS FROM INDIA!*

*FROM VIRGIL, *GEORGICS*

ARTHUR SMALL. *YOU'VE WRAPPED ENOUGH ALREADY!*

IN THE OLD DAYS, YOU WERE MUCH EASIER TO UNDER-STAND
NOW YOU'RE ALWAYS GETTING ANGRY ABOUT ONE THING OR ANOTHER
...
...
NOT REALLY
...
NIDELL JUST .. HUGGED MISS COCO.
.....
AND SO YOU TOOK OUT YOUR ANGER ON ME?

NORA: "YOU'VE INCURRED MY WRATH!!!"
WHAT ARE YOU ACTING ALL MEEK AND FEMININE FOR?
THIS IS ... RATHER DISTURB-ING ...
... THAT WAS WRONG OF ME
ARROW: "USUALLY"
... WAS IT REALLY THAT MUCH OF A SHOCK?
YEAH ... SORRY
SFX: CLENCH
BUT ... IT MADE ME ANGRY, TOO ...
.....
THAT'S --!

BUT WHEN I FINALLY GOT TO HIM ...
NIDELL DIDN'T NEED ME ANYMORE ...

BECAUSE I KNEW NIDELL WORKED HERE.
I ONLY GOT A JOB HERE

YEAH, YOU'RE AN IDIOT.
ドッ
パリ
BUT I GUESS ... I'M JUST A FOOL.

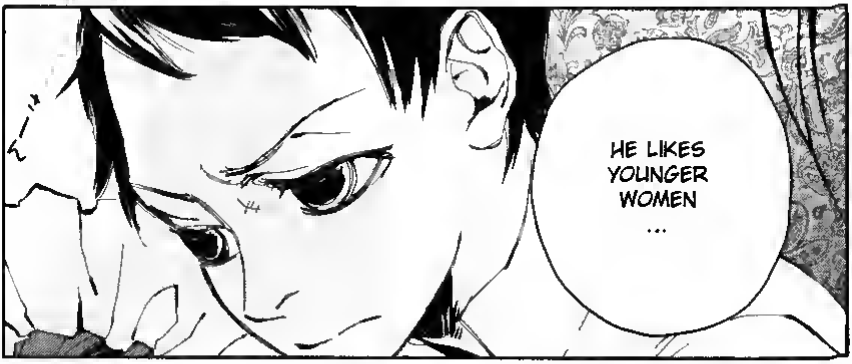
IN THE OLD DAYS, NIDELL AND I WERE ALWAYS TOGETHER!
WHEN NIDELL WAS AT HOME, HE WAS ALWAYS TREATED SO BADLY ...
I THOUGHT I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD PROTECT HIM...

YOU LOVE HIM.
WHAT GIVES YOU THE RIGHT TO CALL ME AN--
THAT'S WHAT MAKES YOU AN IDIOT.

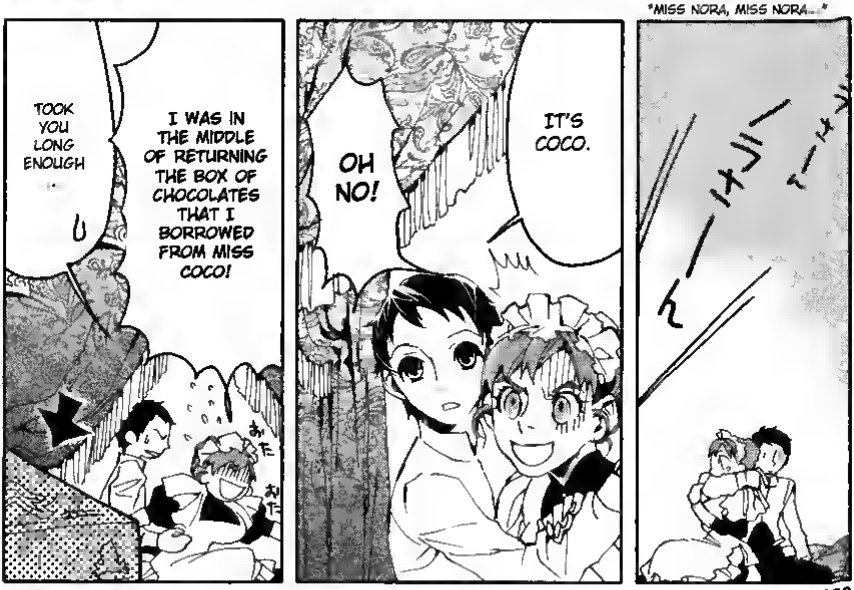
HA.....HA HA.....HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
ARTHUR "WOAH!"
SHE'S LOST IT...
GRAB
HEY ...
LI.
WH-

I CAN'T BEAR TO WATCH YOU CRY LIKE THAT!
SO HURRY UP AND STOP CRYING!
... YOUR FACE FINALLY HAS SOME COLOR, ARTHUR.
AT LEAST MY FACE ISN'T STUPID!
NORA: "AHAHAHA! STUPID-FACE!"
OWWW! YOU'RE MAKIN' ME CRY AGAIN!
あはははバカ面！
NORA SMALL: *EEK! DON'T PULL MY HAIR RIBBON!
WH-WHAT THE ...
IT'S GONNA LOOK LIKE I MADE YOU CRY!!
DON'T CRY!
AGH
aha
I REALLY AM, AREN'T I...
AH HA HA HA HA HA HA
gulp

BG NOISE: "MISS..."



"MISS NORA, MISS NORA..."



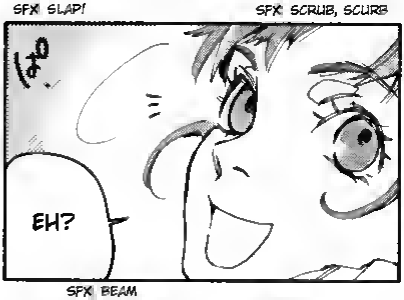
SFX: "WHAT TO DO, WHAT TO DO..."

SFX: DASH!

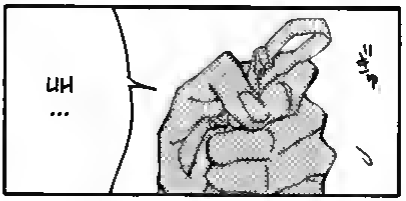
SFX: SLAP!

SFX: POUR

SFX: SCRUB, SCURB



SFX: BEAM



SFX: CLENCH

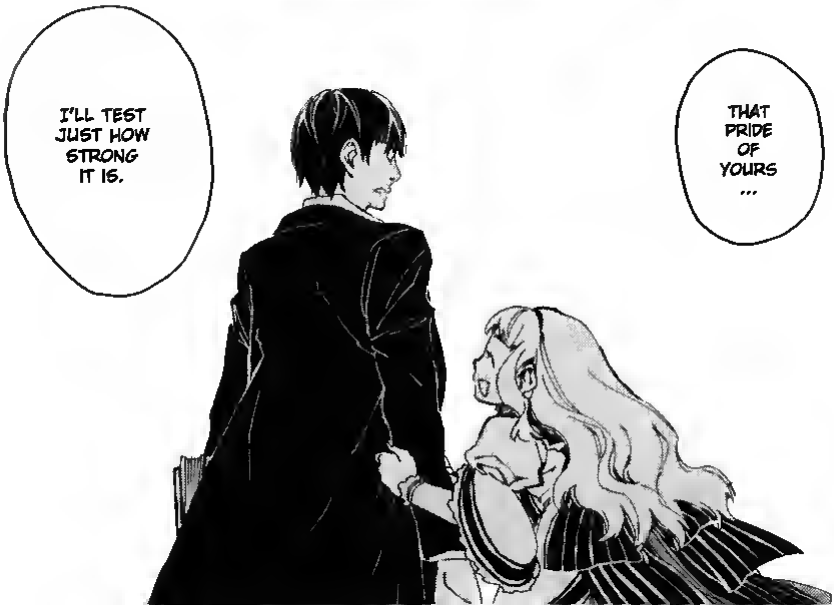
SFX. THE SOUND OF LYING DOWN

DESPITE GROWING UP IN THE SLUMS ...
WHY DID HE FALL IN LOVE WITH EDU-CATION?
THAT FOOL ...
あはは
SFX. AHAHAHAHA
WHAT WAS THAT, NIDELL?! I CAN'T HELP THAT I FORGET ...
YOU'VE BEEN HERE FOR QUITE AWHILE NOW. YOU SHOULD REMEMBER YOUR WAY ABOUT!
REALLY, MISS NORA .
WELL ... I GOT LOST!

WHY IS IT I ALWAYS
I LOST ...
DRAW THE SHORT STRAW?
"YOU CAN'T EVEN LEAVE YOUR BED MOST OF THE TIME."

"YOU GOT NIDELL ALL DEPRESSED, SAYING WHAT YOU SAID!!"
"IT'S LITTLE WONDER YOU ENVY ME."
OH ...
BE QUIET ...
"NIDELL JUST... HUGGED MISS COCO."
SO THAT'S IT!
I SEE ...

BUT MAYBE I CAN USE THIS ...
I GOT CLOSE TO COCO, TO SEE IF I COULD DISCOVER NIDELL'S WEAK-NESS, TO NO AVAIL


I'LL TEST JUST HOW STRONG IT IS.
THAT PRIDE OF YOURS ...

BOLT AND LANTERN

FINAL CHAPTER!

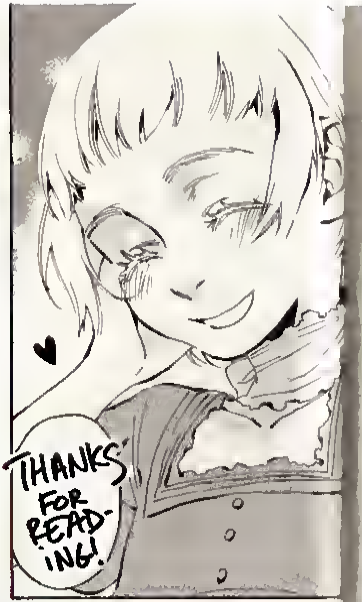
SCANNED,
TRANSLATED
& TYPESET BY:

RIN-UZUKI

PROOFREAD BY:

NEOCACTAR

http://ramsus-kun.webs.com



Chapter 6

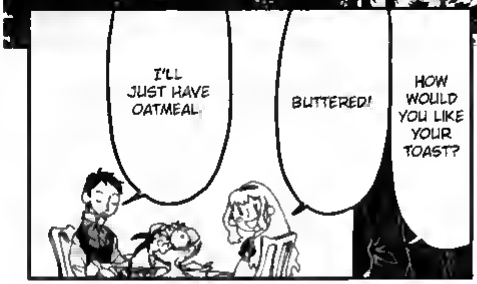
第6話

Cognosce te ipsum.

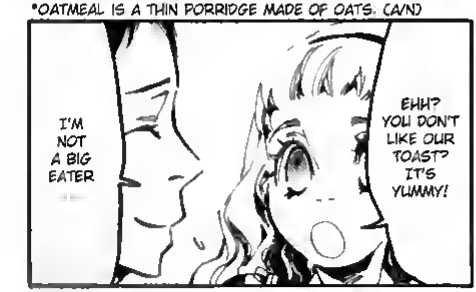
(汝自らを知れ。)

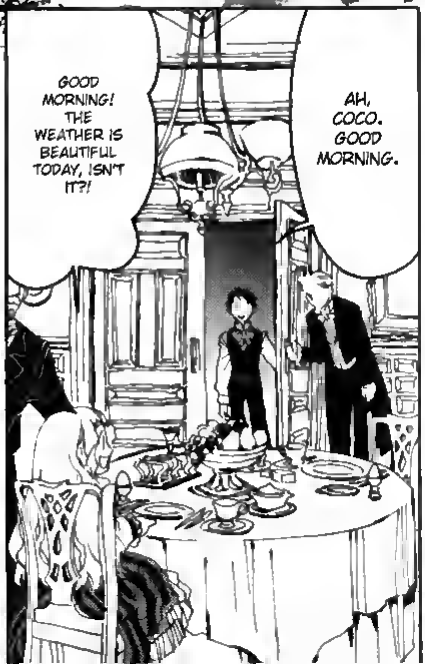
(Know Thyself.)

smile
smile
OKAAAAY!
BREAK-FAST WILL BE SERVED ONCE I'M DONE BRUSHING YOUR HAIR
I'M NOT ...
ES-PECIALLY!
hehehe
MY, YOU SURE ARE IN A GOOD MOOD THIS MORNING!
OH! AM I?



*OATMEAL IS A THIN PORRIDGE MADE OF OATS. (A/N)





I OFTEN TELL HIM HE DOESN'T EXIST SOLELY FOR THE PURPOSE OF EATING
JEEZ... YOU SHOULDN'T SAY THINGS LIKE THAT, ARTHUR!
I KNOW.
IT'S PROOF OF HIS LOW-CLASS BIRTH.

"DON'T LIVE IN ORDER TO EAT. EAT IN ORDER TO LIVE!" IS AN ENGLISH SAYING. (A/N)

BUT YOU'RE ALWAYS SO PALE! YOU'LL NEVER PERK UP IF YOU DON'T EAT PROPERLY ...
YOU'LL HAVE TO FORGIVE ME.
"PALE"
HE MIGHT NOT LOOK IT, BUT NIDELL'S GOT QUITE AN APPETITE!

THERE ARE THOSE WHO WILL BE KIND TO YOU BECAUSE YOU'RE RICH. THEY'LL USE YOU FOR NOTHING BUT THEIR OWN GOALS
EVEN AMONG THE NOBLES, I'M SURE YOU'VE MET PEOPLE LIKE THAT, RIGHT?
JUST HOW DUMB DO YOU THINK I AM?
I'M NOT TRYING TO TRICK YOU...
HOW SAD
...
...
...
おバカだ★
REALLY DUMB
SOMETIMES THEY EVEN GIVE ME CANDY JUST FOR SIGNING DOCUMENTS I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND!
THERE ISN'T ANY-BODY LIKE THAT! EVERY-BODY'S SO NICE TO ME!
MISS COCO...
THEY'VE GOT FILLINGS, AND THEY COME IN THESE BIG, BEAUTIFUL BOXES...
WHAT THEY'RE DOING IS CALLED "USING" YOU.
+0
0.

THOUGH I SUPPOSE IT'S NOT AS IF HE'D JUST SAY WHAT HE REALLY FELT.
HOW ...
THEN BY ALL MEANS, WHY NOT ASK NIDELL AND SEE WHAT HE SAYS?
BAM!
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
TH ...
THERE'S A REASON WHY SOME ARE NOBLES AND OTHERS ARE MEMBERS OF THE LOWER CLASS.
IF YOU LET YOUR GUARD DOWN AROUND THOSE OF LOW BIRTH
YOU'RE JUST GOING TO GET HURT.
HOW CAN YOU ... SAY SUCH CRUEL THINGS, ARTHUR ...?
BECAUSE I CARE ABOUT YOU.

THINK ABOUT IT CAREFULLY.
THAT REASON ...
NIDELL ...
NIDELL WILL BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN ALL OF THIS
I DON'T BELIEVE THAT LIAR FOR A SECOND
"THOUGH I SUPPOSE IT'S NOT AS IF HE'D JUST SAY WHAT HE REALLY FELT..."
.....

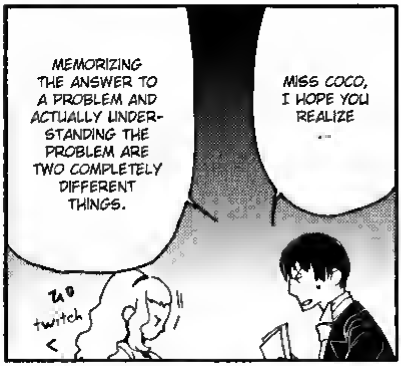
SFX: BA-DUMP BA-DUMP BA-DUMP
Hiding for some reason
IF YOU'RE REALLY A LOLICON, JUST SAY SO ALREADY!
YOU'RE TAKING THIS TOO FAR, NORA.
GASP!
COME OFF IT, NIDELL!
"WHAT AN AWFUL CONVERSATION..."
GULP
I SAW YOU! HOLDING MISS COCO!
HMPH.
BA-DUMP
HOW AWFUL ... I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU REALLY WERE A LOLICON THIS WHOLE TIME ...!
I'M NOT !!
SFX: SNIFFLE
HOW ARE YOU NOT ?!
IF SHE WEREN'T THE MARQUISE, I'D NEVER EVEN TAKE A SECOND GLANCE AT HER!
cleaning rag

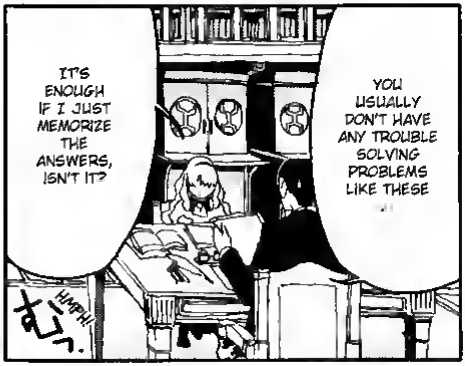
I'VE ONLY BEFRIENDED HER BECAUSE IT SUITS MY PURPOSES!
AUGHHH
WHAT WAS THAT?!
come off it!!

I'M SCARED ...
.....
COCO, DEAR, THIS CANDY IS DELICIOUS!
MISS COCO, IS THERE ANYTHING YOU DESIRE?
DEAR COCO ...
NO ...!
MISS COCO
DEAR COCO

I'M EXHAUSTED ...
WHAT'S WITH HER?
STUPID LOUGON!
WHY ARE YOU CRYING?!
AGH ...
BONG BONG
click
NO, NO, NO! DON'T GET DISTRACTED!! REMEMBER WHAT YOUR ORIGINAL GOAL WAS!
SHE CERTAINLY IS CUTE, BUT SHE'S JUST A TINY LITTLE THING, A CHILD... THAT'D BE A CRIME--
NOW, TRUTHFULLY... IF COCO REALLY WASN'T THE MARQUISE, WHAT WOULD I DO...?
shake shake
gasp!
110 twsh
IF COCO WASN'T THE MARQUISE, SHE...
.....
MY STOMACH HURTS...
gurgle gurgle
SO WHY... DO I FEEL THIS OVERWHELMING SENSE OF GUILT ..?
BUT IT'S NOT AS IF SHE SAID ANYTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY, AT LEAST FOR HER
I'VE BEEN WORRYING EVER SINCE THAT CONVERSATION WITH NORA

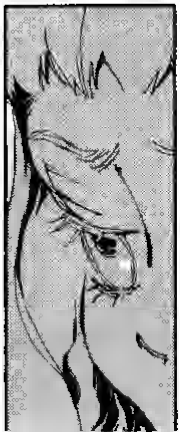
THE NEXT DAY ...
IS SOMETHING WRONG?
MISS COCO ...


MISS COCO, I HOPE YOU REALIZE ...
MEMORIZING THE ANSWER TO A PROBLEM AND ACTUALLY UNDERSTANDING THE PROBLEM ARE TWO COMPLETELY DIFFERENT THINGS.
twitch


YOU USUALLY DON'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE SOLVING PROBLEMS LIKE THESE
IT'S ENOUGH IF I JUST MEMORIZE THE ANSWERS, ISN'T IT?
HMPH!

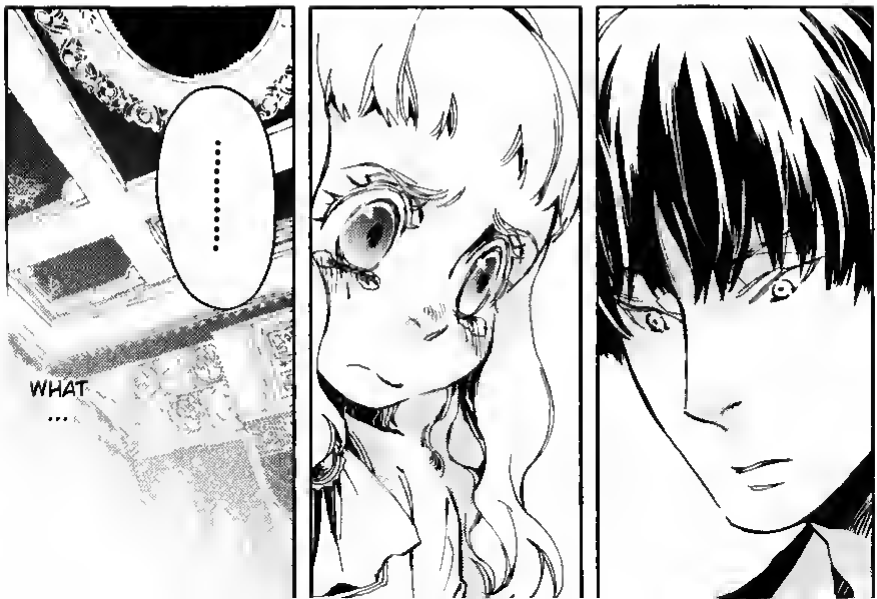
shove
W-
I'M DONE FOR TODAY.

HUH ?
IS IT THAT I'M NOT SMART ENOUGH?
whisper



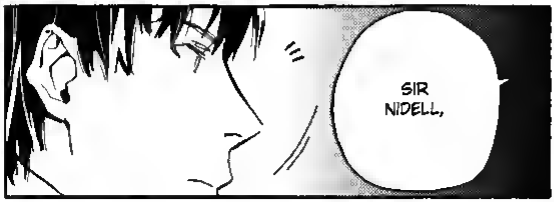
PLEASE, WAIT!
GRAB!
LET GO OF ME!!
Nora-style
WHAM!
WHY HIT ME?
ARTHUR WAS RIGHT ...
"I'VE ONLY BE-FRIENDED HER"
I'M THE MARQUISE ...
"BECAUSE IT SUITS MY PURPOSES" ...
AND YOU'RE NOTHING BUT ONE OF THE WORKING CLASS, NIDELL!

AS A TOOL TO MOVE UP IN THE WORLD ...!!
YOU JUST WANT TO USE ME


.....
WHAT ...

THE WORDS WON'T COME OUT ...
HOW STRANGE ...
MISS CO-
NO.
WHAT DO I SAY
AT A TIME LIKE THIS ...?
WHAT AM I HESI-TATING FOR?
NO MORE!
WHY DID I TRUST YOU?! I MUST LOOK LIKE A FOOL ...
... GET OUT.
I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOUR FACE AGAIN!
GET OUT, AND DON'T COME BACK

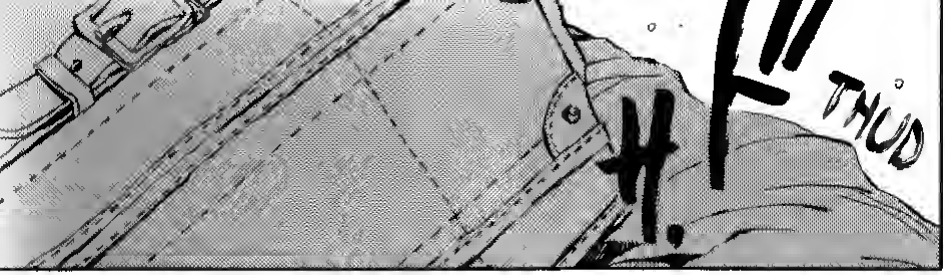
SFX: WHISPER WHISPER

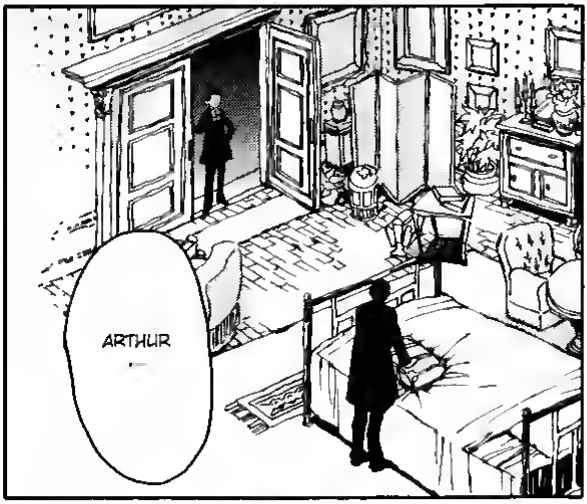


I WOULD ASK YOU TO TAKE FOOD TO HER,
BUT I UNDERSTAND THE REASON SHE'S IN THERE IS BECAUSE SHE DOESN'T WANT TO SEE YOU, SIR NIDELL
... I SEE ...

YOU MUST TAKE YOUR LEAVE.
HUH ?
AS THE MASTER OF THE HOUSE HAS DISMISSED YOU,
DO YOU THINK YOU WILL BE ABLE TO FIND EMPLOYMENT AS A TUTOR ELSEWHERE?
PLEASE ACCEPT MY ...

THAT'S RIGHT
FROM THE VERY START
I NEVER BELONGED HERE


THUD

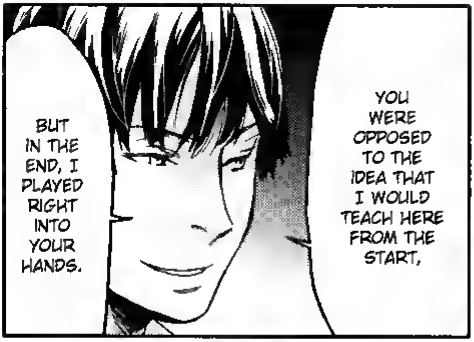

ARTHUR

RUNNING AWAY AGAIN?

YOU CAME HERE TO TAKE ME BACK WITH YOU, DIDN'T YOU?
YOU SHOULD BE HAPPIER

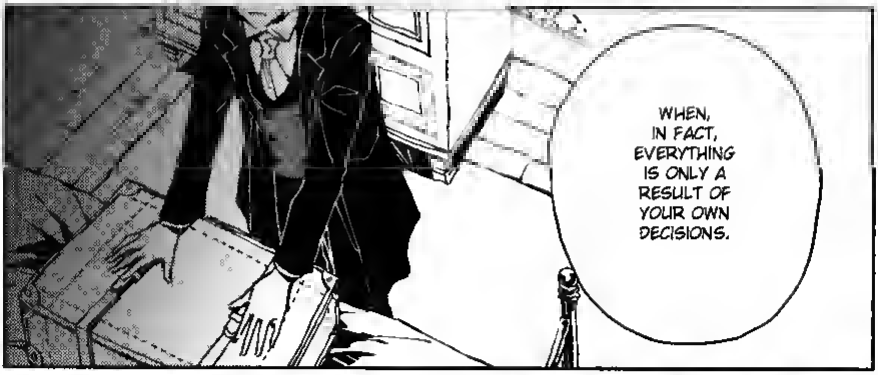
NO RESPONSE HM
I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO BE ABLE TO TAKE MY TIME AND CRUSH YOU SLOWLY
.....

GIVING UP COMPLETELY
THAT'S VERY MUCH LIKE YOU.


YOU WERE OPPOSED TO THE IDEA THAT I WOULD TEACH HERE FROM THE START,
BUT IN THE END, I PLAYED RIGHT INTO YOUR HANDS.

I SUPPOSE YOU WANT ME TO THANK YOU FOR ATTEMPTING TO SPEAK MY MIND FOR ME WHEN I MYSELF HAD NO DESIRE TO?

SO YOU DO HAVE THE COURAGE TO LOOK ME IN THE EYE.
YOU ENJOY NOTHING MORE THAN BLAMING OTHERS!


WHEN, IN FACT, EVERYTHING IS ONLY A RESULT OF YOUR OWN DECISIONS.

YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN THAT WAY.

ARE YOU SO BUSY PLAYING THE VICTIM
YOU HAVE NO THOUGHT TO SPARE FOR THOSE WHO ARE YOUR VICTIMS?
WHAT'S THIS?
UNABLE TO FIGHT BACK WITH WORDS, SO YOU RESORT TO BRUTE STRENGTH?
GRAB
.....
ARTHUR
HARDLY THE ACT OF A BRAVE MAN
WHAT YOU SAY IS ALWAYS CORRECT.
BUT
THAT DOES NOT ALSO MEAN IT IS BRAVE.
I WAS WELL AWARE OF THAT FROM THE START.

BUT AT LEAST ...
WITHOUT A WORD TO ME, LEAVING ALL THAT RESPONSIBILITY TO FALL ON MY SHOULDERS.
JUST LIKE WHEN YOU ESCAPED FROM THE BARON'S HOUSE ...
IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE SO AFRAID OF?
AND I TAKE FULL RESPONSI-BILITY FOR IT.
MISS COCO KNOWS WHAT A TRAITOR YOU ARE.
.....
... SHEESH.
THUD.
clack
wobble

I GET THE SHORT END OF THE STICK, ONCE AGAIN...
カ CLACK
"YOU JUST WANT TO USE ME AS A TOOL TO MOVE UP IN THE WORLD!"
THAT'S THE REALITY OF IT ...
I HAD TO DECEIVE HER...
BUT EVEN SO .
THERE'S NO DENYING IT.
BUT ...
TO MAKE HER TRUST ME...
ツー...

NO MATTER WHAT ...
I WILL NOT LIE TO MISS COCO.

BLAZE
ゴオオオオオ
!!
パチ
crackle
パチ
crackle
パチ

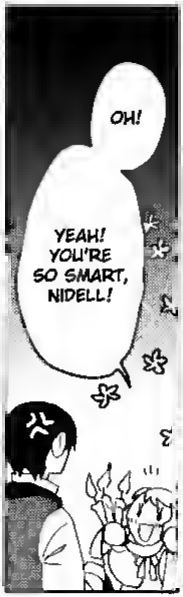
crackle
crackle

crackle
crackle
crackle
.....?

crackle
CLICK
カチャ
FROM INSIDE THE ROOM ...?

NIDELL?!
crackle
pop
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, MISS COCO?!
STOP! IT'S OKAY!
IT'S EMPTY
QUICK, PUT IT OUT...

FLAP
NOO-OO!
IN ANY CASE, I'M PUTTING IT OUT!


OH!
YEAH! YOU'RE SO SMART, NIDELL!

JUST TO BURN THIS USELESS STUFF!
IT'S NOT OKAY! YOU STARTED A FIRE ?!
pop
THEN USE THE FIREPLACE, PLEASE!
crackle

AH!

WHACK

EEEEK!
MISS COCO?!
WHUD
OW ...
pop
crackle
crackle
crackle
crackle

MISS COCO!
NOOO! MY HAIR ... !!!
crackle
pop
sizzle
WHAM
NIDELL!
YOU'LL BURN YOUR-SELF!
OUCH!
THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO WORRY ABOUT THAT!

...
OH.
IN THE END ...
I CAN'T BEAR TO LOSE HIM...!

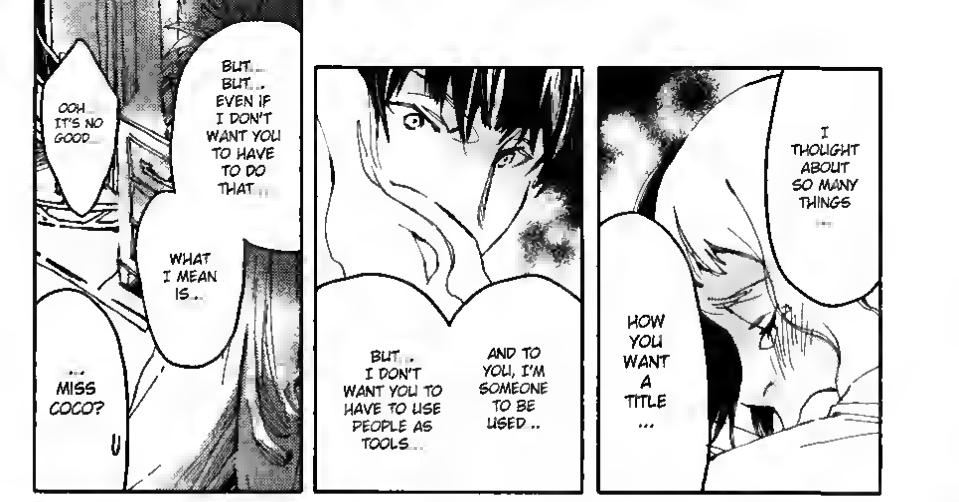
squeeze

ブス…
ブス…

IT'S FINALLY OUT...
……

SOB
SOB
?!

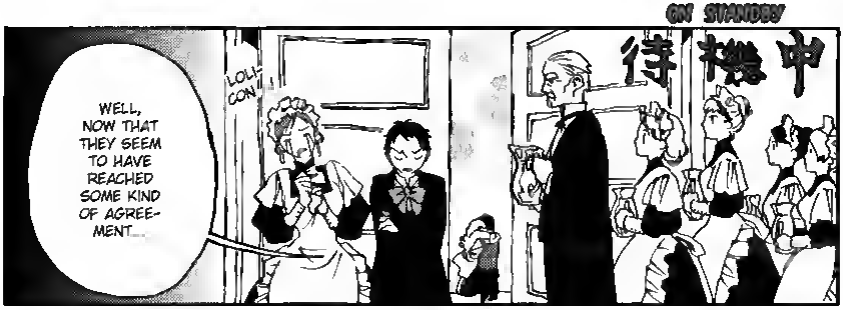
M-MISS COCO?! DID YOU GET BURNED?!
I KNEW IT WAS HOPELESS


I THOUGHT ABOUT SO MANY THINGS ...
HOW YOU WANT A TITLE ...
AND TO YOU, I'M SOMEONE TO BE USED ..
BUT .. I DON'T WANT YOU TO HAVE TO USE PEOPLE AS TOOLS...
BUT... BUT... EVEN IF I DON'T WANT YOU TO HAVE TO DO THAT...
WHAT I MEAN IS..
OOH... IT'S NO GOOD...
... MISS COCO?

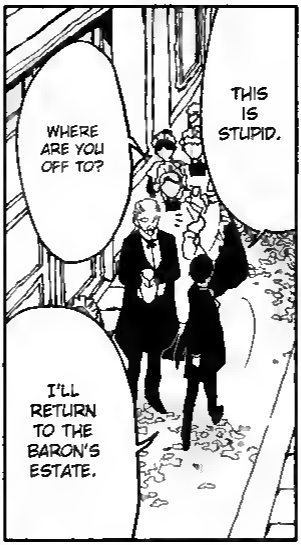
I STILL ...
REALLY LIKE YOU, NIDELL!

EVERY-LITTLE THING IS GONNA BE ALL RIGHT!
HUH?
stab
LOVE & PEACE
TRUMPET
THAT IS ENTIRELY UP TO YOU TO DECIDE, MISS COCO.
BUT ...
I HAVE NO SAY IN WHAT YOU BELIEVE OR WHAT YOU DON'T BELIEVE ...
I
LIKE YOU TOO, MISS COCO!

OKAY ...!


ON STANDBY
待機中
LOU-CON
WELL, NOW THAT THEY SEEM TO HAVE REACHED SOME KIND OF AGREE-MENT...

I'VE NO INTEREST IN A MAN WHO JUST WANTS TO PLAY HOUSE.

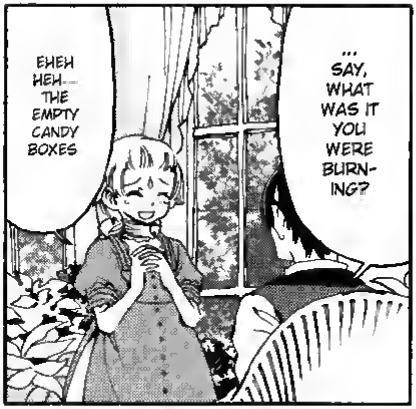

WHERE ARE YOU OFF TO?
THIS IS STUPID.
I'LL RETURN TO THE BARON'S ESTATE.

IS HE STILL TO BE FIRED?
IF IT IS MISS COCO'S WISH.

"IT IS AN ILL BIRD THAT FOULS ITS OWN NEST."
IT WILL BE NICE TO NOT HAVE ME AROUND.
OF COURSE IT WILL!!
WHA-?! BUT, ARTHUR! YOU DECIDED TO DO THIS!
HOW CAN YOU NOT HOLD OUT UNTIL THE BITTER END?!
I SHALL ARRANGE FOR A CARRIAGE.
WELL DONE, SIR.
NATURALLY.

I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING
THE BARON YOU WILL BECOME.

IT SUITS YOU.
IT'S NOT ODD?
I flutter


EHEH HEH— THE EMPTY CANDY BOXES
... SAY, WHAT WAS IT YOU WERE BURNING?

HEH HEH HEH ...

AS LONG AS YOU'VE THOUGHT ABOUT YOUR ACTIONS, IT'S OKAY ...
I'M SO SORRY YOU WERE INJURED BECAUSE OF IT, NIDELL ...

I LEARNED
SOME-THING GOOD TOO.

IT SEEMS I NO LONGER FEAR IT
NIDELL.

WELL, THERE'S A BRIGHT SIDE TO ALL THIS, TOO.
THE WEIGHT OF THOSE WORDS ...
?

I FOUND WHAT'S REALLY IMPORTANT TO ME!

Bolt & Lantern

Asuka Katsura Presents

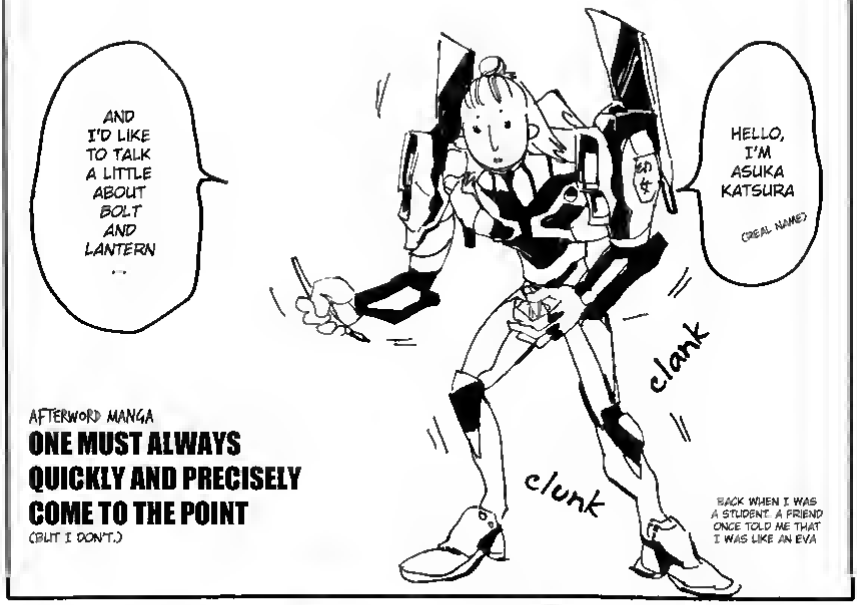
Misce stultitiam consiliis brevem, dulce est desipere in loco.

「僅かの愚かさを思慮に混ぜよ、時に理性を失うことも好ましい」

[Mix a little foolishness with your prudence:
sometimes it's desirable to throw reason to the wind.]

Bolt & Lantern...QED.

Asuka Katsura


AND I'D LIKE TO TALK A LITTLE ABOUT BOLT AND LANTERN . . .
HELLO, I'M ASUKA KATSURA
(REAL NAME)
clank
clunk
BACK WHEN I WAS A STUDENT, A FRIEND ONCE TOLD ME THAT I WAS LIKE AN EVA

AFTERWORD MANGA

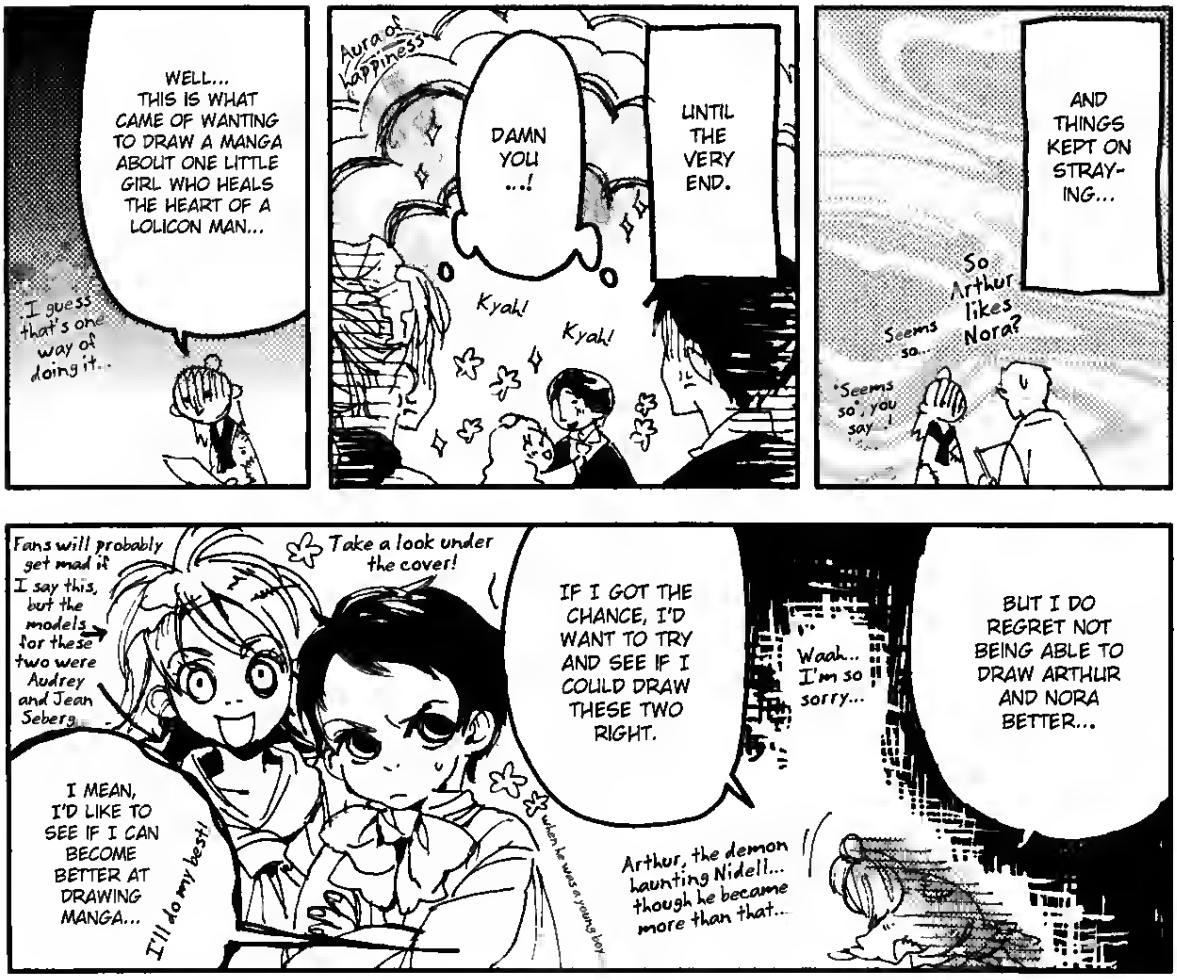
ONE MUST ALWAYS QUICKLY AND PRECISELY COME TO THE POINT

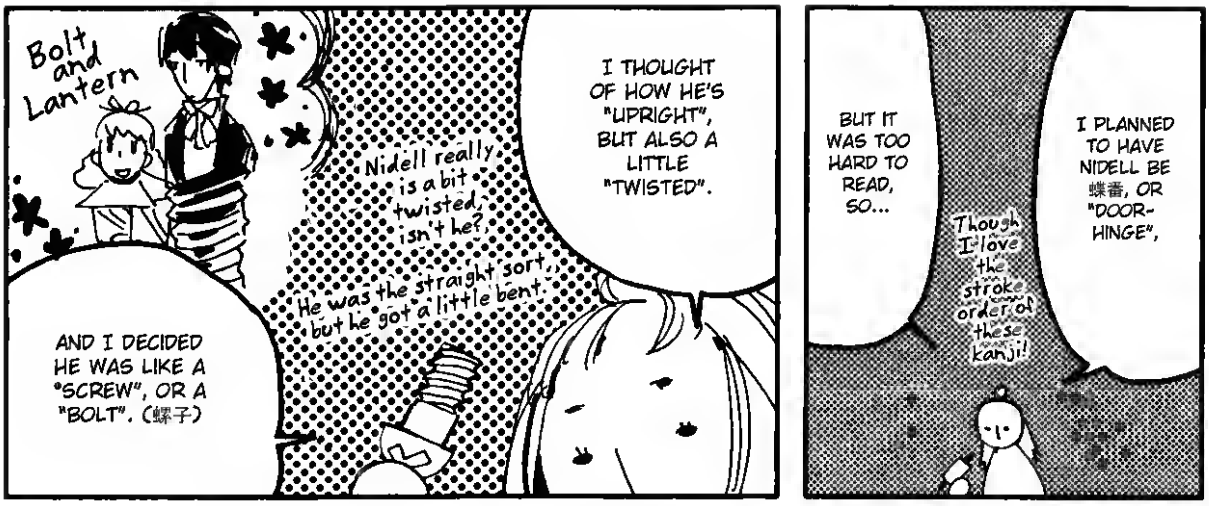
(BUT I DON'T.)

SHOULDER PAD "LITTLE GIRL"

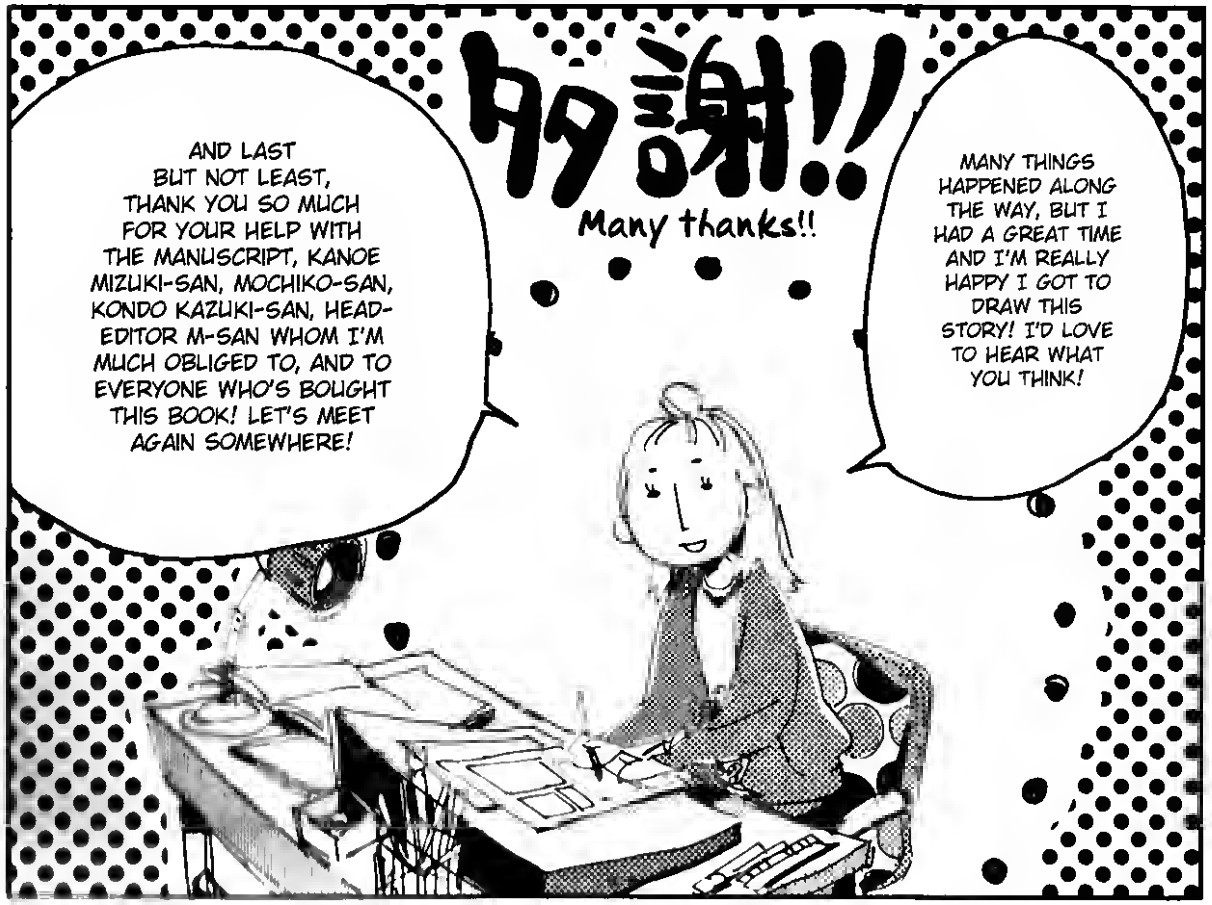
BOOK ALICE

Doesn't look a thing like him
IN THE END, I WASN'T ABLE TO MAKE ANY USE OF IT.
Huh ...
great
O Oscar sama
I GOT REALLY SUCKED INTO OSCAR WILDE, BUT...
A real hedonist
haah haah
THAT WAS WHEN I STARTED READING ENGLISH LITERATURE TO LEARN MORE.
Hmm compiled huh...?
Dickens
For Coco.. I thought about going with "Colette" but it's a French name.
I've always liked names that begin with "N", like "Neal" or "Nickole"
As a last name
BUT THAT WAS A LITTLE TOO OBVIOUS, SO I PARODIED "ALICE LIDDELL" INSTEAD, AND GOT "NIDELL".
FOR A STRONG LOLICON IMAGE, I THOUGHT ABOUT GOING WITH "LEWIS",
Wonderland
NOW, THE MAIN CHARACTERS' NAMES...
BUT IT WAS ACTUALLY REALLY, REALLY HARD ...
"I CAN'T PASS UP THIS A CHANCE LIKE THIS!!!" WAS MY IMMEDIATE REPLY
Can you handle working on two books at the same time?
I- I'll do it!!
IT WAS AROUND THEN THAT I'D JUST SIGNED ON FOR A SERIES WITH ANOTHER COMPANY.
Gothic Lolita
Huh ?
Okay, this is where we'll end the serialization.
Mr.M
THIS AND THAT HAPPENED, AND WHEN I HAD THREE STORIES FINISHED ...
"RAR!"
So he's the man with the most beautiful face in the whole manga.
BY THE WAY, I FIRST WROTE ARTHUR AS A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN DISGUISING HERSELF AS A MAN.
I was so sad to part with those eyelashes.
Ha ha ha ha ha ha
I'D POURED EVERYTHING INTO IT TO HAVE IT SERVE AS A SAMPLE OF MY WORK ...
I at least wanted to draw the conflict between the siblings.
Hahaha my first serialization, and two books at the same time
Everyone was just getting angry...
I'D DECIDED ON THE GENERAL PLOT IN THE BEGINNING, BUT... WHAT COULD I DO WITH WHAT HAD ALREADY HAPPENED IN THE FIRST CHAPTER?


WELL... THIS IS WHAT CAME OF WANTING TO DRAW A MANGA ABOUT ONE LITTLE GIRL WHO HEALS THE HEART OF A LOLICON MAN...
I guess that's one way of doing it...
Aura of happiness
DAMN YOU ...!
UNTIL THE VERY END.
Kyah!
Kyah!
AND THINGS KEPT ON STRAY-ING...
So Arthur likes Nora?
Seems so...
"Seems so", you say...!
Fans will probably get mad if I say this, but the models for these two were Audrey and Jean Seberg.
Take a look under the cover!
I MEAN, I'D LIKE TO SEE IF I CAN BECOME BETTER AT DRAWING MANGA...
I'll do my best!
IF I GOT THE CHANCE, I'D WANT TO TRY AND SEE IF I COULD DRAW THESE TWO RIGHT.
Waah... I'm so sorry...
BUT I DO REGRET NOT BEING ABLE TO DRAW ARTHUR AND NORA BETTER...
Arthur, the demon haunting Nidell... though he became more than that..
when he was a young boy
SO I DECIDED TO CHANGE EACH OF THEM INTO WHAT I WOULD IMAGINE THEIR PERSONI-FIED OBJECT WOULD BE.
I STARTED WITH "NIDELL AND COCO", BUT IT LACKED IMPACT.
Kind of like the famous Jack 'o Lantern
A square-handled hand lantern. Or even just a hand lantern.
I DECIDED COCO'S IMAGE WAS THAT OF A LANTERN.
...but it's not anything grand or fancy... You see...
...b-...
It embarrasses me to say it...
"WHAT'S THE MEANING BEHIND THE TITLE?"
THE QUESTION I'M ASKED MOST OFTEN IS...
and Lantern Bolt


Bolt and Lantern
AND I DECIDED HE WAS LIKE A "SCREW", OR A "BOLT". (螺子)
Nidell really is a bit twisted, isn't he?
He was the straight sort, but he got a little bent.
I THOUGHT OF HOW HE'S "UPRIGHT", BUT ALSO A LITTLE "TWISTED".
BUT IT WAS TOO HARD TO READ, SO...
I PLANNED TO HAVE NIDELL BE 蝶番, OR "DOOR-HINGE",
Though I love the stroke order of these kanji!

SUGGESTED A NUMBER OF ALTERNATIVES TO NIDELL'S "BOLT" IMAGE...
Those are a bit ordinary...
It's already over, guys
Ha ha ha ha ha
oh! Or "Coconut and Lantern"?
How about "Eggplant and Lantern"?
HOWEVER, MY FRIENDS AND ACQUAINTANCES ...

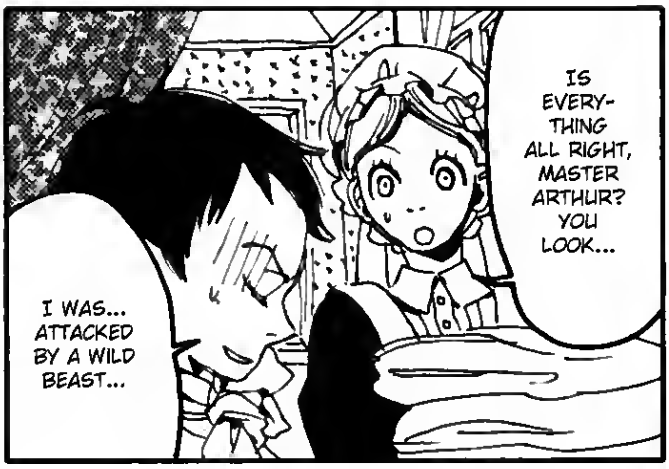

謝!!
Many thanks!!
AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST, THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR HELP WITH THE MANUSCRIPT, KANOE MIZUKI-SAN, MOCHIKO-SAN, KONDO KAZUKI-SAN, HEAD-EDITOR M-SAN WHOM I'M MUCH OBLIGED TO, AND TO EVERYONE WHO'S BOUGHT THIS BOOK! LET'S MEET AGAIN SOMEWHERE!
MANY THINGS HAPPENED ALONG THE WAY, BUT I HAD A GREAT TIME AND I'M REALLY HAPPY I GOT TO DRAW THIS STORY! I'D LOVE TO HEAR WHAT YOU THINK!

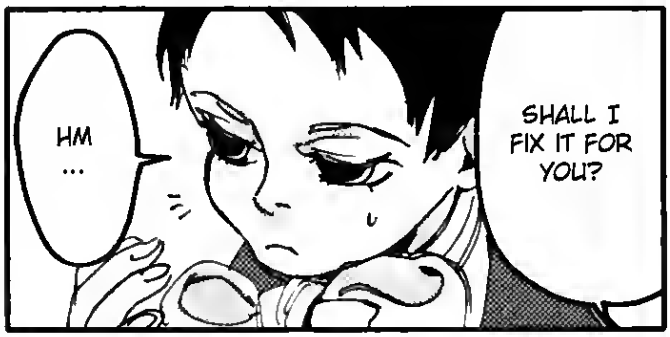
BOLT AND LANTERN 4KOMA THEATER

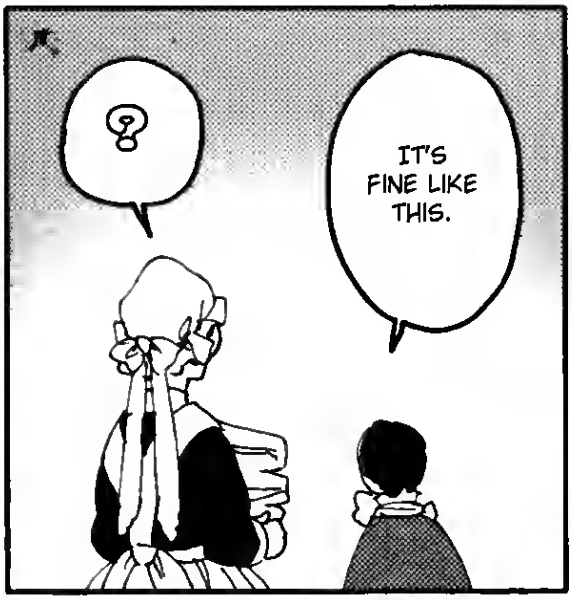
Imaginary Lesson

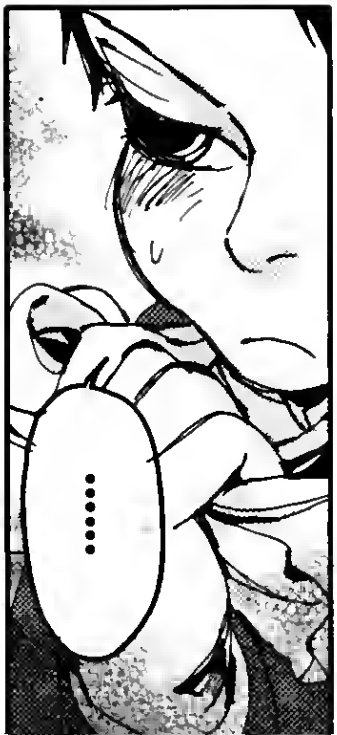
LET'S APPLY THIS PROBLEM TO TWO MEN!
Q: When is a woman most attractive?
A: When her skirt flutters up and her feet are visible.
*In this time period, feet were considered especially vulgar
twirl
A: When she's discovered crying alone.
sob sob
WHAT ARE YOU TEACHING HER?
CAN YOU GIVE THE REASON WHY?
WOW, YOU GOT IT!
UH... UM... NUMBER ONE?
WHICH STINKS OF BEING A VIRGIN?
*WHICH?
↑ Doesn't really understand.

...UGH... DO YOU KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS?
OHO! YOU SLEEPY-HEAD! YOU WERE STILL ASLEEP?
LET'S PLAY, ARTHUR!
ばっ
grin
I'M NOT A LOWLIFE LIKE YOU-- I DON'T DRESS MYSELF!
I HAVEN'T EVEN CHANGED YET.
THEN HURRY UP AND GET CHANGED!
A: GYAAAAH
SFX: SOUND OF TEARING OFF (CLOTHES)
THEN LET ME HELP YOU!









IT'S BECAUSE SHE WAS RAISED IN THE SLUMS

Kadokawa Comics A

Kadokawa Comics Ace
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by
Asuka Katsura

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